

French Voters Stun Government in First Round

Leftist Coalition Surges, Bolstering Chances for a Majority

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Prime Minister Alain Juppé's coalition slumped badly in parliamentary elections Sunday, a stunning condemnation by French voters of government policy.

According to computer projections, an upset victory appeared within reach for a Socialist-led coalition that opposes French efforts to join Germany next year in launching a single European currency at the expense of the welfare state.

The center-right coalition came in below poll expectations and won an estimated 32 percent of the vote. Voters gave unexpectedly high support to leftist and extreme rightist parties, according to the computer projections.

The Socialists, who have an electoral alliance with the Communist Party and the Greens, were surging with more than 40 percent of the popular vote. That level of support would make the Socialist leader Lionel Jospin the logical candidate to head a new gov-

ernment, perhaps with a slim absolute majority.

President Jacques Chirac gambled by calling elections a year early, counting on a narrow but solid majority in time to pre-empt rising opposition to the government ahead of the introduction of the single currency next year.

But the tactic appears to have backfired and Mr. Chirac will almost certainly now have to work with a new government that is less enthusiastic about his approach to economic modernization and a European currency on terms largely established by Germany.

The right could still win, but it will need to attract conservative voters who supported the National Front of Jean-Marie Le Pen. That party's 15 percent showing Sunday, apparently swollen by a protest vote, accounted for part of the governing coalition's weakness.

Now the front may be in a position to keep candidates in more than 50 districts for the run-off, turning those elections into three-way contests where Mr. Le Pen's supporters could make the difference between conservatives and

leftists. Mr. Le Pen, who is strongly opposed to European integration, has publicly called on his followers to back the Socialists on the grounds that they will delay action on the new Euro currency with Germany.

But there will be strong local pressure for deals in which some conservative candidates get backing from the front in exchange of increased grassroots influence and perhaps even a few parliamentary seats for the front.

The allocation of seats in the Chamber of Deputies depends on the run-off, and France seemed headed for an electrifying round of last minute campaigning ahead of the run-off on June 1.

A lackluster campaign had largely masked how close the main rivals were despite their sharp divisions on domestic economic policy and international cooperation in shaping post-cold war Europe.

The projections showed the leftist alliance polling 41 percent, against 32 percent for the center-right coalition and 4 percent for a number of conservative splinter parties.

What seemed certain was that Parliament, dominated by the conservatives for the last four years, will now be sharply divided and closely balanced between leftist and conservative blocs.

That rivalry will reduce Mr. Chirac's room for maneuver, even though the remainder of his term is not changed by these elections. Mr. Jospin has pledged to follow Mr. Chirac's lead on foreign policy and in some other areas, such as defense and judicial independence, but his platform in the campaign called for renegotiating a single currency with Germany and halting plans for a larger military role in NATO.

Mr. Chirac has made it plain that he does not relish the prospect of sharing the government, which the French call "cohabitation." In an effort to head that off, he was widely expected to intervene personally in the final stages of the campaign on behalf of the conservatives.

Mr. Chirac's best hope of rallying his supporters seemed to lie in signaling that, in the event of a conservative

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Prime Minister Juppé voting Sunday in Bordeaux, where he is mayor.

Landslide Election of Moderate Cleric Reflects Iranian Discontent

Spiritual Leader Acknowledges Public's Yearning for Change

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

TEHRAN — To the outside world, Iran often seems the very essence of totalitarianism, a place of glowering ayatollahs and rigid censorship where unmarried couples risk arrest for sitting together in a park.

But that image was sorely tested Sunday by results from the presidential election in which a moderate Muslim cleric, Mohammed Khatami, scored a

NEWS ANALYSIS

stunning upset victory over Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, the Parliament speaker, followed a lively, free-wheeling presidential campaign that confounded much of the conventional wisdom in the West about the nature of the Iranian regime.

Popular enthusiasm for the election could be read in the turnout: of 32 million eligible voters, 94 percent cast ballots, according to final results. Mr. Khatami won with more than 20 million votes, or 69 percent of the total. But if

his victory on Friday shattered some stereotypes about Iranian politics, neither should it be read as a sign that Iran has embarked on a path to Western-style democracy. What it suggested, instead, is a system that is becoming more pluralistic and perhaps more flexible, but has not abandoned its Islamic and revolutionary underpinnings.

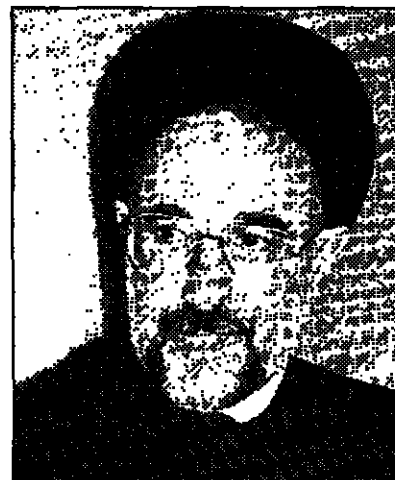
"In no way shape, or form should this be viewed as a vote to change the system," said a Western-trained Iranian academic who supported Mr. Khatami.

"But it is a vote for new ideas, new people, more responsive government." To some extent, that also appears to be the view of the outgoing president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is stepping down in August at the end of his second four-year term but will retain great influence as head of a newly expanded Expediency Council. Ultimate authority in Iran will remain with its religious leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

At a news conference Sunday morning, a bemused-looking Mr. Rafsanjani denied suggestions that the vote represented a "protest" against the 18-year-old Islamic revolution in Iran. But he acknowledged the yearning for change.

"I believe that the vote of the people

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Mohammed Khatami, Iran's president-elect, is a revolutionary with a taste for the West. A profile, Page 9.

Taleban Closes In On Control Of Country

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Service

HAIRATAN, Afghanistan — Abdul Rashid Dostum, one of the key figures vying for control of Afghanistan, fled the country Sunday, leaving the Taleban Islamic movement in control of virtually the entire country.

General Dostum had held on to power by betraying his allies and switching sides at opportune moments. But in a turnaround over the weekend, the former Communist general was deposed as the Soviet-style ruler of a minuscule in northern Afghanistan, betrayed by his closest deputies.

With the capture of Mazar-i-Sharif, a provincial capital where General Dostum had his administrative headquarters, the Taleban and its allies have almost ended the civil war and united Afghanistan for the first time in two decades.

Neighboring Pakistan, where the Taleban was formed a few years ago in Islamic schools for Afghan war refugees, on Sunday became the first nation to extend diplomatic recognition to its government in Kabul, the capital.

It appears that only two major forces are still fighting the Taleban from isolated, mountainous bases. A Shiite faction holds the Shebar Pass in the Hindu Kush mountains. Ahmed Shah Masoud, defense minister in the ousted government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, has holed up in the northern Panjshir Valley, where he managed to fight off the Soviet Army for several years.

But it would not be unprecedented for Mr. Masoud to switch sides after having been both an ally and enemy of General Dostum over the years.

In ethnic and regional terms, the fundamentalist Taleban is about to re-establish the dominance of Pashtuns, the country's largest ethnic group, and the southern province of Kandahar.

A Pashtun monarchy from Kandahar ruled the modern state of Afghanistan for more than a century until the last king was deposed in 1973.

For the first time since 1978, it looks

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Fatal End To Race in Indonesia

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

JAKARTA — A violent, month-long election campaign has ended with a horrific loss of life on the island of Borneo, where at least 130 people died Friday in a shopping complex that was set on fire by rioters, according to reports reaching here Sunday.

The deaths occurred in the town of Banjarmasin, capital of the Indonesian province of South Kalimantan, 880 kilometers (550 miles) northeast of here, when looters were trapped in the four-story complex by riot policemen and then by a fire that was set in a ground-floor bank. Reuters reported.

"So far we have 130 bodies that have been found," a rescue worker said. "There are still many more."

The official Antara news agency said that 8 shopping centers, 130 houses, 21 cars, 60 motorcycles and 3 hotels were burned and that four government buildings were damaged in the city of about 400,000 people.

It said 100 people were being treated in hospitals for burns and stab wounds.

The riot came at the close of the most violent election campaign in recent times here in the world's fourth-largest nation, despite stringent regulations that limited public campaigning and attempted to segregate supporters of rival parties to avoid clashes.

Before the final day of campaigning Friday, in advance of a cooling-off period before the parliamentary vote Thursday, the authorities reported that 123 people had died in riots and campaign-related traffic accidents.

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Schoolgirls enjoying the sun in a public park in Tehran on Sunday.

Sierra Leone Leader Is Toppled in Coup

Reuters

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — Soldiers overthrew the Sierra Leone government on Sunday, and President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was reported to have fled into exile in Guinea.

Witnesses said soldiers taking part in the coup exchanged sustained fire with Nigerian troops, who guard the president under a bilateral agreement, around the presidential office complex in the capital, Freetown.

"An exchange of fire between Nigerian troops and coup-makers continues at state house," said a resident who lives near the complex.

There was no immediate word on casualties. Hospital sources said that five civilians had died elsewhere in the capital and that several civilians and soldiers had been wounded.

Nigerian and Guinean troops have been backing the army in Sierra Leone's

fight against rebels. Nigerian troops guard the state house, the capital's international airport and other sites.

A coup spokesman, Corporal Gborie, said in a radio broadcast that junior ranks had toppled Mr. Kabbah. Corporal Gborie asked Nigerian troops not to intervene in what he called an internal matter.

Small-arms fire and the occasional crash of mortar shells continued into the afternoon. A government building in the vicinity of the state house was on fire and other office blocks, including the Treasury, were threatened, residents said.

Residents reported looting by soldiers and some civilians long after the coup leaders called for calm and asked people to stay at home.

The headquarters of UN agencies was ransacked and all vehicles there removed, UN sources said.

Shops and businesses closed Sunday

Will America Help Russia Reach 2000?

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — A U.S. congressman and his aide, specialists in technology issues, sat at a restaurant in earnest conversation with a Russian and his interpreter.

The subject that had brought Mikhail Gorbachev to the meeting: Is Russia anywhere near being able to cope with the Year 2000 problem — the glitch faced worldwide by computers that do

Newsstand Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	LL 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Aruba	1.800 CFA	Oman	10.00 Rials
Cameroon	1.800 CFA	Qatar	12.50 FF
Egypt	10.00 FF	Réunion	10.00 R
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R
Gabon	1.100 CFA	Senegal	1.100 CFA
Guinea	2.800 Lira	Spain	225 PTAS
Ireland	1.250 CFA	Tunisia	1.250 Dm
Ivory Coast	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dhs
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dhs
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	\$1.20

not properly recognize any date after Dec. 31, 1999? Or does it lag so seriously that computers in banks, factories and on military bases could malfunction and cause grave difficulties?

Mr. Gorbachev's assessment, say those present and others who have talked with him, is that Russia has not begun to address the problem in any systematic way, and that when it is ready to act, it will have little money with which to do so.

The former Soviet leader proposed a solution: Raise money in the United States to pay American consultants and engineers to help. Mr. Gorbachev has already selected a small, nonprofit U.S. think tank, the Dupuy Institute, to coordinate this fund-raising effort.

Chris Lawrence, acting executive director of the institute, acknowledged that the idea of Americans donating millions of dollars to help Russians solve an arcane-sounding computer problem might seem far-fetched.

But the stakes, he insisted, are anything but arcane: The problem threatens not just the financial and military security of Russia, he said but, by implication, global financial and military stability.

Mr. Lawrence admitted that few people have any idea of the full extent of the problem facing Russia. His institute, which specializes in military history but apparently was chosen by Mr. Gorbachev because of its links to Russian researchers, is commissioning a study there.

One indication of the sweep of the problem appears to be the fact that there is so little information on it.

Russell George, the congressional aide who met Mr. Gorbachev with Representative Stephen Horn, said, "No one really has a good sense as to what's going on in the former Soviet Union."

Even the CIA said it had not focused on the problem in Russia. "We're too busy worrying about our own Year 2000 problem," a spokesman said.

In the 1950s and 1960s, programmers wanted to save space in computer code and so used two digits, not four, to represent the years. Thus, 66 means 1966 to a computer. But 00 means 1900, not 2000. The problem will create logical leaps, causing many older computers, and many newer ones that incorporate older ones, to malfunction, generate er-

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AGENDA

Israel Says Mubarak Meeting Is On

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — Israel said Sunday that a summit meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt would go ahead as planned.

"The summit will take place on Tuesday," Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh told Israel Television after talks in Jerusalem with an Egyptian

envoy sent to prepare the ground for the meeting at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh.

The Israeli daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth had said the summit meeting was in danger of being canceled because of Israel's refusal to agree ahead of time to stop building a Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem.

Italian 'Referendum'

MILAN (AFP) — More than 4 million Italians took part Sunday in a symbolic regional referendum on independence for the north organized by the country's separatist Northern League.

Roberto Maroni, a spokesman for the league, said it was an "extraordinary result," and predicted that up to 6 million would have voted by the time the exercise ended at 9:00 P.M.

The poll asked northern Italians whether they were in favor of independence for the north of the country, which the League calls Padania.

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The IHT on-line <http://www.ihon.com>

'Fear City' No More / New York Escapes the Doldrums

Money and Melting Pot Help Put the Town on Top

By Blaine Harden and Jill Dutt
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — In 1920, when this city was cocksure that it had no peer in matters of wealth, culture and razzle-dazzle, F. Scott Fitzgerald hailed a cab. "I was riding in a taxi one afternoon between very tall buildings under a mauve and rosy sky," the novelist later wrote. "I began to bawl because I had everything I wanted and I knew I would never be so happy again."

Seventy-seven years later, it may well be time for another good cry.

After decades of being derided as dangerous, dirty and ungovernable, New York is on a roll. Crime has declined in ways criminologists describe as astonishing. More of America's money than ever is coursing through Wall Street. And one of the great waves of immigration in the city's history is healing the wounds of suburban flight.

To grasp how there could be a renaissance in a place that 20 years ago was virtually bankrupt and branded by some residents as "Fear City," it is useful to think of New York not as a geographical location, but as a semi-explosive process. It can veer out of control without giant-sized feedings of two raw ingredients: money and people.

At the moment, there is an abundance of both. The boom on Wall Street has allowed city hall to harvest its largest budget surplus in history. As for humanity, an annual infusion of about 113,000 immigrants is more than making up—at least for now—for the enervating drip of residents to the suburbs and elsewhere.

While money and people are necessary, they are not sufficient to explain what is happening in New York. The third ingredient is order, or more precisely, the perception of order.

"There was a long period of time when it was perceived that the lunatics were running the asylum," said John Tepper Martin, chief economist for New York City's comptroller. "Now the perception is that the wardens are back in charge."

The chief warden, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, presides over a fall in the crime rate that criminologists say has no precedent. Since the Republican took office in 1993, murders have fallen to a 30-year low. In 1992, the murder toll in New York was 2,005; last year it was 985.

Asked in an interview to respond to critics who say he is not doing enough for minorities, Mr. Giuliani said: "They are alive, how 'bout we start with that. You can't help people more directly than to save lives."

New York, of course, is anything but a typical American city. Its fortunes are uniquely tied to Wall Street. But a look behind the city's renaissance is a way of understanding how all big cities can be invigorated by a whopping reduction in crime and by massive infusions of highly motivated immigrants.

Broad assessments of New York are often suspect. The city is so vast and chaotic as to defy generalization about

where it is heading or even what it is. It is not the city you see on "Seinfeld." Only one out of five New Yorkers lives in Manhattan, the borough with the skyscrapers and the supermodels, the media and most of the rich. One need not look far in the four other boroughs to find gaping holes in the city's boom.

While compensation in the securities industry is up 42 percent since 1989, wages for everyone else are up just 3.8 percent. The unemployment rate of 8.6 percent last year was the highest of the 20 largest cities. Allegations of police misconduct under the Giuliani administration are up sharply. The numbers of people sleeping in homeless shelters, after years of decline, are up 15 percent in the last three years. The cost of housing has jumped this year to a point where it consumes a third of the average New Yorker's income, a bite unmatched since the era of housing abandonment in the 1970s.

PUBLIC schools are severely overcrowded, straining to absorb 20,000 new students a year, most of them the children of immigrants. There were 91,000 students last fall who had no classroom seats. After cutting more than \$1 billion from schools during his first two years in office, Mr. Giuliani has had to reverse course and increase spending by more than \$1 billion.

Schools continue to be, as they have been for decades, a major trigger for leaving the city; more than 100,000 residents are estimated to leave every year. Because of flight and immigration, the racial and ethnic makeup of the city has been radically transformed. A city that was 63 percent white in 1970 is projected to be just 35 percent white by the year 2000.

While New York has always been a city of extremes—of the super rich and desperately poor—its bedrock has been a large and mostly white working- and middle-class living in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Immigration has scrambled the racial and ethnic makeup of the middle.

The scramble, though, has not changed the fundamental working-class character of Brooklyn and Queens. The neighborhoods there are now peopled by new arrivals who speak more than 100 languages and whose ethnic complexities are such that traditional labels of white, black, Hispanic and Asian have lost much of their meaning. A generalization that does have meaning is that most immigrants in the 1990s are eager to accept arduous, low-wage jobs.

Aware that immigrants are saving New York from the grisly consequences of depopulation, Mr. Giuliani end-

lessly exalts the new arrivals, calling them the "key" to the city's success, and his administration fights to smooth the process by which they receive federal assistance and become citizens.

But the mayor's critics, citing gaping disparities between the gilded lives of the Wall Street Wunderkind and the hard-scrabble lives of the immigrants, say New York is evolving into a postindustrial city with a missing middle class.

"These questions of income differential and wealth differential, the differences created by lack of skills and education, are getting greater," says Felix Rohatyn, the former investment banker at Lazard Freres & Co. who is in line to become the next American ambassador to France. He ran the control board that helped pull the city back from the edge of insolvency in the 1970s. "There's been a very large creation of wealth for very few. I don't think the Wall Street boom has improved on average the standard of living for most people here."

There are no guarantees that the raw materials feeding those parts of New York that are clearly resurgent will remain abundant.

The long bull market cannot go on forever. Changes in immigration laws could slow the flow of migrants. A new drug could hit the streets, as crack cocaine did in the 1980s, and crime could explode again.

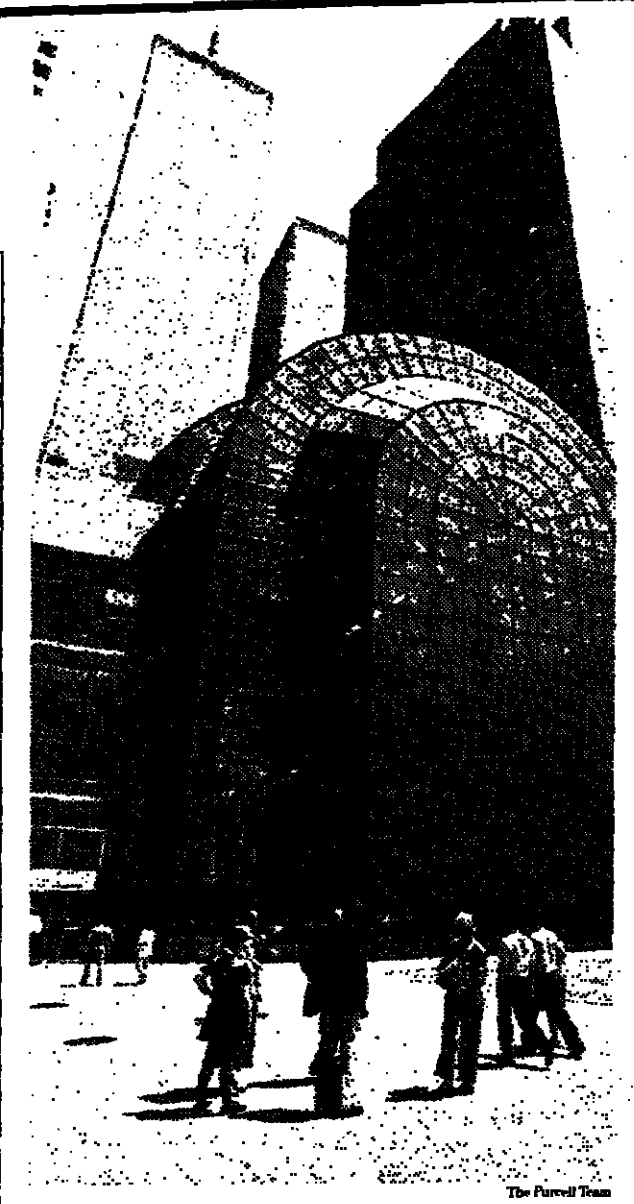
But for the moment, New York is enjoying a sweet spot in its long season as America's premier city.

With the securities industry coming off the most profitable year in its history, affluence in the city has accelerated to what Peter Solomon, an investment banker, describes as a "high whine." Wall Street firms last year earned a record \$11.3 billion in pretax profits, according to the Securities Industry Association.

Mr. Solomon, who worked as deputy mayor for finance during the Democratic administration of Edward Koch, said: "There's so much money coming out of Wall Street. The numbers are enormous."

THE NUMBERS derive, in part, from a surge of cash into mutual funds, a surge that marks a fundamental shift in the way Americans save for retirement. More than 40 percent of Americans now own mutual funds. What this means, according to Gedale Horowitz, senior managing director at Salomon Brothers, is that "Wall Street is now processing a larger percentage of all of America's money."

Even as the city handles more of the nation's savings, the



The Financial Times

number of financial middlemen here is declining. Compared with 1987, there are about 12,000 fewer professionals in the securities industry. This is good news, if you have a job. Brokers, analysts and investment bankers are making more money than ever. Mid-level earnings range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 a year. Managers pull down at least \$600,000. Top traders take home millions.

The bottom line: Just 151,000 people make enough to provide the city with 14 percent of its tax revenue. The taxes these people pay are the primary reason for the city's \$800 million surplus this year.

Similarly, they have an influence on the city's consumer economy, culture and charitable institutions that is wildly disproportionate to their numbers. Riding the coattails of Wall Street, the fashion industry, luxury retail and commercial real estate are booming.

TWA Crash in Mind, Boeing Urges Checks of Fuel Tanks

By Matthew Wald
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — With no evidence from the wreckage of what made Trans World Airlines Flight 800 explode last July, Boeing is asking all airlines that fly 747s to inspect the planes' center fuel tanks for signs of anything that could create a spark.

A spokesman for Boeing, Russell Young, said that the company had agreed with the Federal Aviation Administration that since a 10-month investigation had not found the cause of the explosion, "We've reached an agreement with the FAA that it would be smart to go out and look at more airplanes."

In assisting the government's investigation, Boeing has inspected the center fuel tanks of 10 747s but found nothing that could cause a spark, Mr. Young said. More than 1,000 of the airplanes are in service with airlines around the world.

As Boeing made the announcement, the National Transportation Safety Board said that efforts to recover the wreckage of Flight 800 from the sea floor off the coast of Long Island had ended.

Investigators, working in a hangar in Calverton, New York, are still examining the wreckage. So far, they say, they have found evidence that the center tank exploded but have not established why, and have not found any evidence of a bomb or a missile. They are planning tests on parts of a jumbo 747 to determine what evidence a small bomb might leave.

When the cause of an accident or mishap is known, aircraft makers often warn their customers to check their airplanes to see if a similar flaw exists. In this case, Boeing's recommendations to its customers is unusual because no evidence of a flaw has been found. Often the FAA will move to make such "service bulletins" mandatory.

Mr. Young said that the bulletin it would issue would recommend inspecting fuel pumps, fuel gauges, and the equipment that assures that static electricity charges are carried away from the tank. He said that recent statements by FBI officials that a mechanical malfunction was more likely than a bomb did not prompt Boeing's action, but, he said, "It's part of the environment."

He added, however, "We've got a lot of confidence in the design. This is a good way to validate it."

The service bulletin will be issued

sometime in June, he said, and engineers have not yet determined how many hours of work it would take to complete the work it recommends.

A letter from Boeing to its customers points out that the National Transportation Safety Board, which is pursuing the investigation in the crash of Flight 800 with the FBI, has recommended measures to avoid future crashes. Boeing said the measures are "far-reaching and have broad implications for the entire industry," which is to say they would be expensive.

The board wants airlines to make sure that the atmosphere in nearly empty tanks, such as the one on Flight 800, will not sustain a fire or explosion, by pumping in inert gas or making sure the fuel is too cold to turn to a vapor.

Boeing, in contrast, said in its letter that "our experience indicates that the protective features built into the fuel system are effective for the service life of the airplane."

Louvre Still Shut As Strike Widens

The Associated Press

PARIS — Striking nighttime guards at the Louvre blocked France's largest museum for a fourth day Sunday, with no new talks scheduled between the unions and management, a union spokesman said.

The strike, protesting working conditions and the loss of two holidays for the night guards, kept the "Mona Lisa" and other works locked away from a city jammed with thousands of tourists strolling in springlike weather. The museum usually attracts 20,000 visitors a day this time of year.

Daytime guards also walked out in solidarity with their 100 nighttime counterparts at the Louvre, a union spokesman said.

"No negotiation has been opened with management," said Pierre Zineberg, a night guard and member of an interunion grouping.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Hong Kong Airlines Ground Airbus Fleets

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Passengers flying with Hong Kong's two airlines faced delays and cancellations for a second day Sunday after the two carriers grounded their Airbus A330-300 fleets amid concerns about engine safety.

"We've got 15 flights canceled today and doing our best where possible to get all our passengers onto other flights," a Cathay Pacific Airways spokesman said, adding that some schedules had had to be changed.

Cathay Pacific suspended 11 Airbus A330-300 aircraft Saturday, and its sister carrier, Hong Kong Dragon Airlines, or Dragonair, suspended four after a series of single-engine landings involving Rolls-Royce Trent 700 engines.

Americans on the Road

NEW YORK (NYT) — An estimated 230 million Americans are expected to travel from now through the Labor Day holiday in early September, according to the Travel Industry Association of America and the American Automobile Association. That figure is 2 percent higher than last year.

The Prince Edward Island farmhouse that inspired author Lucy Maud Montgomery's book "Anne of Green Gables" was heavily damaged in a fire, and will likely be closed for the coming tourist season. (WP)

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices will be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Bermuda, Bolivia, Britain, Georgia, Gibraltar, Namibia, Puerto Rico, United States, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

WEDNESDAY: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ethiopia.

THURSDAY: Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Grenada, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Poland, Portugal, Seychelles, Vatican City.

FRIDAY: Croatia, Trinidad.

Sources: J.P. Morgan, Reuters, Bloomberg.

Alfred Hershey, Nobel Laureate, Dies at 88

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Alfred Hershey, 88, who was awarded a Nobel Prize for proving that DNA is the molecule that carries genetic information, died Thursday at his home in Syosset, New York.

Mr. Hershey shared a Nobel Prize in 1969 with Salvador Luria and Max Delbrück for their work in discoveries about the genetic structure of viruses and how they replicate, which provided new insights into viral diseases and inheritance.

By the time he was honored by the Nobel committee, Mr. Hershey had been engaged in his research for decades.

When he won his prize, other scientific leaders said that without his work, James Watson and Francis Crick would not have been able to accomplish their own work for which they had been awarded a Nobel seven years earlier: development of their helix model of DNA, which determined its molecular structure.

Very little was known about viruses

when Mr. Hershey and the men who would become his co-laureates, each working independently, began research on them in the 1930s. To learn more about them, and about the basic nature of heredity, the three researchers focused on bacteriophages, viruses that infect bacteria.

In her book "Scientific Elite: Nobel Laureates in the United States," Harriet Zuckerman said that "before the prize finally came to the three founding fathers in 1969, it had gone to 15 molecular biologists and biochemists for investigations built on foundations the three pioneers had laid down."

General Robert Russ, Headed Tactical Air Unit in Gulf War

SHALIMAR, Florida (AP) — General Robert Russ, 64, who headed the U.S. Air Force tactical unit during the Gulf War, died of cancer Friday.

He was commanding officer of the Tactical Air Command, now known as the Air Combat Command, at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, before he retired in March 1991. General Russ was

considered the father of the F-15E Strike Eagle, a bomb-carrying version of the F-15 Eagle air-to-air fighter, first used in wartime in the Gulf.

Edward Mulhare, 74, the Irish actor who gained fame in the United States as Captain Daniel Gregg in the 1960s television series "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir," died of lung cancer Saturday in Los Angeles. Among his many roles on Broadway was the lead in "My Fair Lady" from 1957 to 1960.

George Lessner, 92, a composer of music for films, television and the stage, died May 12 at his home in New Rochelle, New York. Born in Budapest, he was graduated from the Royal Academy of Music after studying with Zoltan Kodaly and Bela Bartok.

Laure Moghaziz, 68, a Lebanese lawyer and a pioneer of women's rights in the Arab world, died in Beirut Sunday. She had been a member of the New York-based International Committee for Human Rights since January.

WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe				Asia			
City	Today	Low	High	City	Today	Low	High
Algeria	22/21	14/12	22/21	Almaty	31/26	16/11	31/26
Amsterdam	18/15	7/4	18/15	Bangkok	32/28	22/17	32/28
Antwerp	21/10	8/4	21/10	Beijing	28/22	14/5	28/22
Athens	26/19	17/8	26/19	Bombay	33/31	24/15	33/31
Berlin	18/12	6/4	18/12	Calcutta	30/10	20/10	30/10
Bombay	33/31	24/15	33/31	Chengdu	20/11	2/1	20/11
Buenos Aires	26/18	8/4	26/18	Chongqing	28/22	14/5	28/22
Calcutta	30/10	20/10	30/10	Cebu	30/26	16/11	30/26
Chengdu	20/11	2/1	20/11	Colon	30/26	16/11	30/26
Chongqing	28/22	14/5	28/22	Hankow	28/22	14/5	28/22
Columbus	26/18	8/4	26/18	Harbin	20/11	2/1	20/11
Copenhagen	18/12	6/4	18/12	Hong Kong	28/22	14/5	28/22
Dublin	18/12	6/4	18/12	Jakarta	30/26	16/11	30/26
Edinburgh	18/12	6/4	18/12	Kobe	28/22	14/5	28/22
Geneva	24/15	17/8	24/15	Kuala Lumpur	30/26	16/11	30/26
Hamburg	18/12	6/4	18/12	Manila	30/26	16/11	30/26
Helsinki	18/12	6/4	18/12	Medan	30/26	16/11	30/26
Hong Kong	28/22	14/5	28/22	Osaka	28/22	14/5	28/22
Kobe	28/22	14/5	28/22	Shanghai	28/22	14/5	28/22
Kuala Lumpur	30/26	16/11	30/26	Singapore	30/26	16/11	30/26
London	18/12	6/4	18/12	Taipei	28/22	14/5	28/22
Los Angeles	26/18	8/4	26/18	Tokyo	28/22	14/5	28/22
Madrid	26/18	8/4	26/18	Yokohama	28/22	14/5	28/22
Moscow	26/18	8/4	26/18				
Mumbai	33/31	24/15	33/31				
New Delhi	33/31	24/15	33/31				
New York	26/18	8/4	26/18				
Osaka	28/22	14/5	28/22				
Paris	24/15	17/8	24/15				
Perth	26/18	8/4	26/18				
Prague	18/12	6/4	18/12				
Rangoon	30/26	16/11	30/26				
Rio de Janeiro	26/18	8/4	26/18				
Sao Paulo	26/18	8/4	26/18				
Seoul	28/22	14/5	28/22				
Shanghai	28/22	14/5	28/22				
Singapore	30/26	16/11	30/26				
Taipei	28/22	14/5	28/22				
Tokyo	28/22	14/5	28/22				
Yokohama	28/22	14/5	28/22				

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ASIA/PACIFIC

After 30 Years, Is the Suharto Government Showing 'Regime Fatigue'?

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

JAKARTA — President Suharto gained a new distinction recently: With the fall of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire, the Indonesian president's 30 years in power now rank him second in tenure, just behind Fidel Castro of Cuba, among the world's leaders.

And like his counterparts elsewhere, Mr. Suharto is discovering that in politics, as in love, familiarity can breed frustration and discontent. There are no indications that Mr. Suharto, 75, is facing anything like a Mobutu-style exit from the political scene. There are no rebels surrounding the capital and no obvious successors waiting in the wings. The Indonesian military backs Mr. Suharto, while the system he created rigidly constrains most forms of political expression.

Yet the signs of mounting popular disaffection are palpable, from the thick-carpeted boardrooms along Jakarta's high-rise commercial strips to the slums south and east of the city, where unemployed young men in T-shirts and

headbands challenge police lines with stones and Molotov cocktails. Everyone, it seems, is clamoring for change — but a change to what, no one is quite sure.

"I think this Suharto government is suffering from regime fatigue," said Susanto Pudjomonono, chief editor of the Indonesian daily newspaper the Jakarta Post. "If a regime has ruled for 30 years, it has lost its touch."

Campaigning for Thursday's elections for Indonesia's rubber-stamp Parliament — normally a lackluster contest among three government-sanctioned parties — has sparked rioting this year in Jakarta and across central Java and elsewhere. Tension also flared into violence earlier this year between Indonesia's majority Muslim population and the economically privileged ethnic Chinese minority.

Newspapers and magazines, normally restrained in their coverage of politics, lately have shown more bite, even treading into such sensitive areas as the business dealings of the Suharto children. And members of Jakarta's normally conservative middle-class elite have become surprisingly candid in their criticism of

Mr. Suharto — and in their suggestions that it is time for him to leave.

While political life in Indonesia remains strictly and stubbornly controlled from the top, there is evidence of a more subtle, but potentially far-reaching "revolution" of sorts stirring beneath the surface.

Some 20 million Indonesians, or 10 percent of the population, are estimated to have access to satellite television, opening a world of information to them outside the government's control, such as programs on CNN. Satellite dishes and receivers cost as little as \$200. There is also an impressive array of independent, grass-roots organizations — legal aid societies, human rights groups and environmental organizations.

Like South Korea and Taiwan, two other military-led regimes that shifted peacefully to democracy in recent years, Indonesia "has the same pattern of extended economic growth creating social change, and a middle class no longer willing to be denied a place in the political system," said a Western diplomat.

Indonesians want to avoid a violent upheaval like the one over leadership succession three

decades ago. The Indonesian Communist Party attempted a coup by assassinating top army generals, and the military seized power and embarked on a ruthless campaign of bloodletting against suspected leftists.

"Everyone agrees that for the government not to respond to the pressures will be dangerous," said a political scientist, Dewi Fortuna Anwar, of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. "But how far to respond is the question," she said, adding, "There is a lot of disagreement about how fast to do it, and to what degree."

Mr. Pudjomonono, the Jakarta Post editor, said, "We lack the courage to topple Suharto." The more likely scenario is gradual change from within the system, led by an accepted, moderate figure of the establishment. To many, Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's first president, Sukarno, offers the best hope.

Mrs. Megawati is anything but radical. She stays within the confined legal boundaries. When the government orchestrated her removal as head of the small Indonesian Democratic Party, she challenged it not in the streets but in the courts. Since being dumped as party leader,

she is banned from running in the current elections. She announced that she would refrain from voting, but she stopped short of calling for an election boycott, because that would have been illegal.

"Megawati is not anti-establishment," said Subagio Anam, a businessman and aide to the opposition leader. "She is part of the establishment," he said. "If you go outside the system, you will be totally crushed."

With Mrs. Megawati, by far the most popular opposition leader, effectively banned from politics, the approaching election holds little suspense. The ruling Golkar party and its two small, legally authorized rivals have identical platforms, all the candidates have been vetted and approved by the military, and all support the appointment of Mr. Suharto for another five-year presidential term beginning next year.

So tightly is the system controlled that Haji Harmoko, the Golkar chairman who is also information minister, predicted that his party will win 70.02 percent of the vote. Few expect him to be far off the mark.

Delicate Balance Along the Ganges

India and Bangladesh Hope Water Deal Ends Decades of Enmity

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

HARDINGE BRIDGE, Bangladesh — Not long after the sun rose above this rusty railroad bridge on a recent morning, a battered blue launch pulled away from a jetty beside the Padma River, as the Ganges is known after it leaves India and enters Bangladesh.

Chugging among ferries and fishing boats, the launch dropped anchor just upstream of the bridge, where the river runs south through marshy flatlands toward the Bay of Bengal. After checking their position with a sextant, the crew members opened a hatch and lowered a torpedo-like device with a shiny propeller into the Padma's sluggish waters.

"I feel that the eyes of India and Bangladesh are on us out here," said Hari Shankar Choudhary, the Indian co-leader of a team of Indian and Bangladeshi officials who have gone out on the river every morning this year to measure its flow and depth. Manwarul Islam, Mr. Choudhary's Bangladeshi counterpart, nodded in agreement.

After 50 years of bitterness over the Ganges, India and Bangladesh are six months into a 30-year water-sharing treaty that both nations have described as the basis for a new relationship. Signed in December, it has been widely hailed as the model for what is known in the region as the Ganges doctrine, after I.K. Gujral, India's new prime minister.

Mr. Gujral has set out to remake India's relations with the nations that share the subcontinent. He has argued that India, as the most powerful country in the area, must be generous with its neighbors.

Taking the lead in breaking the cycle of enmity, he seeks a breakthrough in easing poverty. By some measures it makes the region, with one-fifth of the world's people, even more deprived than sub-Saharan Africa.

India has cited the Ganges treaty with Bangladesh, pushed through by Mr. Gujral when he was foreign minister, as a model of its new approach. But problems in carrying out the accord have shown some of the pitfalls awaiting any effort to overcome the longstanding disputes.

In late March, at a critical moment in the planting season for 40 million people in the part of Bangladesh watered by the Padma, river levels at Hardinge Bridge dropped to the lowest ever recorded.

With Bangladesh getting barely a sixth of the water pledged to it under the treaty, government officials accused India of cheating, which Indian officials angrily denied. At cities in the Padma River

delta, and in Dhaka, farmers blocked roads in protest as crops withered. For the farmers, as well as for millions of others who depend on the Padma for their livelihoods, the river flows are a matter of life or death.

For the moment, unseasonal spring rains have eased the crisis, with the river at Hardinge Bridge back to levels that normally develop later in the spring, when rising summer heat on the north Indian plain melts snow in the Himalayas.

The respite has allowed officials on both sides of the border to say that the Ganges accord could be a turning point, not only for India and Bangladesh, but also for nations elsewhere that face river conflicts with their neighbors.

The Ganges dispute is one of many that have prompted warnings in recent

Nepal, it flows 2,240 kilometers (1,400 miles) through the north Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal before reaching Bangladesh and flowing into the Bay of Bengal.

Indian studies have estimated that the river and its tributaries affect the lives of more than 500 million people. The figure is nearly half the 1.1 billion population of India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, another small Himalayan nation whose rivers feed the Ganges.

The region constitutes what one Indian expert who has studied the Ganges dispute, B.G. Verghese, has called "a vast poverty sink." Tens of millions of people living at the edge of subsistence, with some of the lowest per-capita incomes anywhere; illiteracy rates of 50 percent and more; birthrates that have nearly tripled populations in 50 years; falling agricultural productivity; endemic levels of disease, and in recent decades increasingly serious water shortages.

The paradox is that the area is one of the most heavily watered anywhere. Some parts of northern India get more than 3 feet of rain between July and October.

Historians have credited abundant monsoons with giving rise, more than 3,000 years ago, to Hindu civilization. But despite ancient waterworks along the Ganges that were one of the wonders of their age, modern governments have failed to harness the monsoons.

Since Indian independence in 1947, proposals for dams in Nepal that could have doubled the Ganges's dry-season flows have repeatedly foundered because of environmental concerns and political enmities.

The new treaty sets 10-day periods from March to May in which India and Bangladesh will alternately take most of the water reaching Farakka, set at a minimum of 34,500 cubic feet a second.

But on March 27, during a period when the flows were supposed to favor Bangladesh, the monitoring team at Hardinge Bridge recorded only 6,500 cubic feet a second, the lowest figure ever.

Many Bangladeshis were furious, accusing India of diverting water at night when no monitoring team was present.

"It speaks volumes for the pathology that affects this issue in Bangladesh," said Ramaswamy Iyer, a retired Indian official who helped lay the groundwork for the treaty. "The moment there is a problem, the first thing Bangladeshis say is, 'Ah, the bloody Indians have done it again, they've stolen our water.' It's very difficult to deal with such mistrust."

India Looks Forward To Normal Monsoon

Reuters

NEW DELHI — Annual monsoon rains in India in 1997 are likely to be normal for the 10th successive year, the Meteorological Department said Sunday.

The department said nine of 16 measures used to predict the monsoon were favorable and that there was "a very good probability of a normal monsoon this year."

In much of India, the southwest monsoon provides most of the annual rainfall. The Indian economy remains primarily agriculture-based, and adequate rainfall is important to farm production, national income and the effort to keep down prices.

years that the 21st century could see a return to the distant past, when tribes and potentates in arid regions fought over scarce water. In 1991, one of the starkest forecasts was given by Boutros Boutros Ghali, when he was still a deputy prime minister of Egypt and about to be appointed secretary-general of the United Nations.

"The next war in the Middle East will be over water, not politics," he said.

Many of the world's great rivers flow across national frontiers, and over the centuries there have been disputes. These have only sharpened as environmental issues have compounded age-old conflicts over water-sharing.

Of all the disputed rivers, none affects so many people as the Ganges. Rising in



A boy salvaging belongings from a burned area in Banjarmasin, on Borneo, after rioting on the last day of the Indonesian election campaign.

AFGHANISTAN: Warlord Quits Region

Continued from Page 1

as if Afghans are about to know the feeling of peace in one of the world's poorest countries.

Peace would open opportunities for trade through Afghanistan from Central Asia, particularly the construction of oil and natural gas pipelines to Pakistan and India.

Some Afghanistan specialists have said Pakistan has provided fuel and strategic advice to bolster the Taliban.

But stability under the Taliban also troubles the governments of many nations, including Pakistan and the United States, because of the purist and coercive version of Islam already enforced in territory under its control.

Girls cannot attend secular schools, most women cannot work outside the home and men have to grow beards and pray in mosques.

The Taliban's extensive rules, which some Islamic scholars maintain have their basis in tribal customs but not religious texts, extend to matters of dress and entertainment.

The new leaders of northern Afghanistan, Dostum defectors, indicated that the Taliban rulebook would be applied at least for the time being in Mazar-i-Sharif, a free-wheeling city of 200,000 where men have indulged in un-Islamic practices like drinking alcohol and gambling on sporting contests.

Cocooning is to end, and female students will not be able to attend school until funds are found to finance separate ones, according to Abdul Malik, General Dostum's successor as leader of his predominantly ethnic Uzbek faction.

Many Mazar residents have appeared fearful of the restrictions. A shopkeeper who closed his shop when word spread of the coming of Taliban allies pulled down his sign and hid it inside. He sells videotapes, which the Taliban has banned.

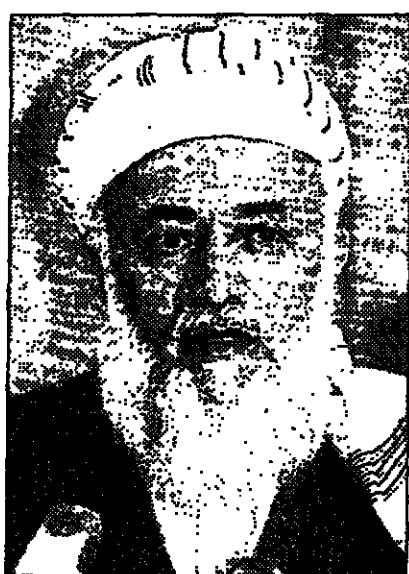
Others are defiant. Saturday afternoon a curly-haired taxi driver moaned, "Taliban, Taliban," and then dramatically flipped on a cassette tape of a popular Afghan star singing the kind of secular music that the fundamentalist government has also prohibited.

But peace does appear to be on its way, brought by the Taliban. About 2,500 of its soldiers arrived in Mazar-i-Sharif a day after their allies took the city.

General Dostum's army, estimated to be 40,000 to 60,000 strong, has been integrated into pre-Taliban forces without much trouble. Mr. Malik said. The new leader of General Dostum's faction was his foreign affairs director until defecting to the Taliban last week.

General Dostum's deputy, Majid Rousi, has smoothly retained his position in the faction and allied himself with the Taliban.

According to Mr. Malik's count, the Taliban and its allies now control all but four of Afghanistan's 28 provinces. Mr. Malik was apparently motivated by a blood feud to defect to the Taliban after the assassination last year of a brother and last week of a close friend, both allegedly on General Dostum's orders.



Former President Burhanuddin Rabbani has fled Afghanistan to Iran, Pakistan announced Sunday.

INDONESIA: Rioting on Borneo

Continued from Page 1

For the moment, the cooling-off period has held, with no reports of violence or street rallies over the weekend. The streets of Jakarta, the capital, where rioting also flared Friday, were quiet Sunday, shorn of the bright green, yellow and red campaign banners and flags of the three sanctioned political parties.

In a tightly orchestrated procedure, voters will elect 425 members of a largely ceremonial Parliament that has been dominated for three decades by supporters of President Suharto.

Those members will join 75 delegates from the politically influential military. The 500-member body will join next year with 500 delegates selected by the government to form a People's Consultative Assembly that will select the next president.

Mr. Suharto, 75, who has ruled this nation of 200 million people for 30 years, is widely expected to decide to remain for another five-year term. He has been the candidate of all three parties in every previous assembly.

He himself has voiced worries about the sort of violence that has erupted during the campaign and in the past year. "A complex society can be vulnerable to unrest if not handled carefully," he said in December.

In recent months, rioting has broken out on the main island of Java as well as in Kalimantan, set off by incidents as varied as police abuses, ethnic confrontations and neighborhood disputes.

In Banjarmasin, witnesses said the riot began, like the violence Friday in Jakarta, when members of rival political parties clashed. It quickly exploded into widespread vandalism and arson that targeted a Protestant church, a branch of the Lippo Bank, a supermarket and a four-star hotel, among other buildings.

Rescue officials said that shops in the four-story complex had closed as the rioting spread and that all the bodies were believed to be those of rioters and looters.

"All of them were criminals," an official said. "They were taking advantage of the rioting."

■ Indonesian Rivals Collide

Most residents in Banjarmasin, described by guidebooks as the Venice of Indonesia for its canals and floating markets, said they had stayed inside Friday.

The violence started with the burning of the provincial headquarters of the governing Golkar party after clashes between Golkar supporters and those from the rival Muslim-oriented United Development Party.

Rioters then set ablaze a Protestant Bank minority church, which in turn ignited a crowded neighborhood of wooden houses, destroying hundreds of homes that were still smoldering 48 hours later.

BRIEFLY

Burma Opposition Insists It Will Meet

BANGKOK — Burma's opposition, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, said Sunday it would go ahead with a party meeting this week despite the detention of 192 members by the ruling military.

"We are all waiting to see what happens tonight and tomorrow to see if the authorities will stop the planned party meeting in Aung San Suu Kyi's compound," a senior leader of the National League for Democracy said.

It said it had documented the detention of 192 supporters, but reports from the provinces indicated that more than 250 had been rounded up, an official said. (Reuters, AFP)

Taipei Tries to Deny Vessels to Protesters

TAIPEI — Taiwan, seeking to prevent escalation of a sovereignty dispute over islands in the East China Sea, said Sunday that fishermen who had leased boats to activists for a voyage to the islands faced punishment.

A flotilla carrying more than 200 activists and reporters was scheduled to leave the port of Shengao at 10 P.M. for the disputed islands, known as the Diaoyu in Chinese and the Senkaku in Japanese. The islands are claimed by Taiwan, Japan and China.

The cabinet's Council of Agriculture said boat owners who rented them to the activists could have licenses revoked if the boats went farther than 24 nautical miles from Taiwan, far short of the isles. (Reuters)

Sri Lankan Forces Resume Offensive

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lankan troops moved further Sunday into rebel-held territory in the north, the Defense Ministry said. But security sources said separatist guerrillas were putting up stiff resistance and slowing the government advance.

The army resumed an offensive Saturday after a five-day pause, advancing three kilometers (two miles) farther north of Omanthai, a Defense Ministry statement said. The town was captured from the rebels last week. About 20,000 troops are involved in the offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, seeking to open a supply route to the Jaffna Peninsula.

The government said 14 soldiers were killed and 19 wounded Saturday. It said 30 rebels had been killed and more than 75 wounded. The rebels' secretary in London put the guerrilla toll Saturday at six. (Reuters)

Beijing Marks Sites Of Wartime 'Shame'

BEIJING — The authorities here have marked eight sites of "national shame" to commemorate atrocities in the Japanese occupation of the 1930s and '40s, the official media reported Sunday. A white marble marker was placed at the sites where civilians or resistance fighters were killed by Japanese troops, Beijing Daily said.

One of the markers was placed in the Temple of Heaven, said to have been used as the headquarters of a germ warfare unit. (Reuters)

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EUROPE

Slovak Vote on NATO Falls to Power Struggle

Boycott Discredits the Referendum

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — A fierce power struggle between Slovakia's two leading politicians has thrown into chaos a referendum on NATO membership.

Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar on Sunday blamed his opponents for the confusion and said Slovakia had missed an important opportunity to show it wanted to join the alliance. Reuters reported.

"The referendum was important to show who was in favor of NATO and who was trying to prevent this," Mr. Meciar said at a news conference. "It was possible to reach a decision that would be favorable to the Slovak Republic but this was failed." He added that turnout in the vote was less than 10 percent.

In two days of voting at the weekend, Slovaks were supposed to be asked two questions: whether they wanted to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and whether they wanted their president elected by popular vote instead of by Parliament. But the ballot became a test of strength between President Michal Kovac and Mr. Meciar that ended in turmoil.

A widespread boycott by Mr. Kovac's supporters of the disputed ballot discredited the outcome. The referendum needed a turnout of at least 50 percent to be valid.

The confusion around the vote reflects clashing visions about Slovakia's future. Mr. Kovac favors rapid integration with Western institutions such as NATO and the European Union. But Mr. Meciar seems more comfortable

with an authoritarian-style government that looks toward Russia and the east.

As a result of this identity crisis, Slovakia appears unlikely to join the first wave of eastward expansion by NATO when new members are selected at a Madrid summit in July. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are the prime candidates.

The controversy arose when Mr. Kovac's allies framed the question on the ballot asking whether the president should be directly elected. Under the constitution, Parliament must elect the president by a 60 percent majority. If it fails, presidential powers pass to the prime minister.

The president's supporters fear a divided Parliament would enable Meciar to augment his clout when Mr. Kovac's term ends next March. They distrust Mr. Meciar's commitment to democracy and want to ensure that a popular vote would prevent him from gaining too much power.

Mr. Meciar has come under criticism from the United States and other Western countries for shackling the media, intimidating political opponents and slowing free-market reforms. While he says he supports the goal of joining NATO and the EU, he recently signed a military cooperation pact with Russia.

He also wrote the NATO question in a way that would encourage negative votes. The ballot asked voters if they would accept nuclear weapons and foreign troops on their soil. Neither condition is required for membership; NATO insists it has no plan, reason or intention to deploy such weapons and troops on the territory of new members.

On the eve of the referendum, Interior Minister Gustav Krajci, a close Meciar ally, ordered the presidential question removed from all ballots. The supreme court had upheld the validity of the two questions. But Mr. Krajci said the presidential issue was "irrelevant" to a vote that was supposed to focus on NATO.

At voting booths in the capital on the second day of voting Saturday, voters expressed outrage when they received ballots with only the NATO question. Other stations did not hand out any ballots at all. "It's pure chaos out there," said Eduard Kukan, chairman of the opposition Democratic Union.

Mr. Kovac said he would not take part in a vote with incomplete ballots and called on supporters to boycott the polls. He chastised Mr. Meciar for trying to sabotage the election and accused Mr. Krajci of criminal behavior.



The church in Luebeck, Germany, burning Sunday. The police found swastikas daubed nearby.

BRIEFLY

Rightists Burn German Church

LUEBECK, Germany — A fire apparently set by rightist extremists gutted a Roman Catholic church Sunday, authorities said.

On an outside wall, investigators discovered freshly painted white swastikas and the name of a pastor who recently gave a family of Algerian immigrants shelter in his parish, the state prosecutor's office said. (AP)

Italy to Offer Economic Plan

MILAN — The Italian government is expected to unveil its three-year economic strategy this week in the face of opposition from trade union leaders and hard-left allies to cutting pensions and welfare payments.

The strategy, known as the economic and financial planning document, is due to be approved by the cabinet Friday and will outline how the government intends to cut 25 trillion lire more (\$15 billion) from the deficit in next year's budget.

The document is a part of a plan for stabilizing state finances and keeping alive hopes of joining a European currency union by the planned 1999 start. (Reuters)

Bonn Confident on Eurofighter

BONN — Defense Minister Volker Ruehe said Sunday he was confident that Bonn, under pressure to tighten budgets and qualify for European monetary union, would find the funds needed to buy 180 Eurofighter jets.

The minister said in a statement that he welcomed proposals by Finance Minister Theo Waigel to redirect state aid for the Airbus airliner to the four-nation Eurofighter

project to help pay for the planned 23 billion Deutsche mark (\$13.6 billion) purchase. Mr. Ruehe has already offered to provide 1 billion DM from his own budget, which was severely scaled back last year. If Mr. Waigel comes up with another billion needed to assure that production of the jet can start. (Reuters)

Danes' Suit on EU Treaty Opens

COPENHAGEN — In a court case to open here Monday, 11 Danes are accusing Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen of violating the country's constitution by signing the Maastricht treaty.

While neither Mr. Rasmussen nor other ministers will be sitting in the accused's benches in the Court of Appeal, the case will be defended by high-ranking officials from the Foreign and Justice ministries.

The EU This Week:

International Herald Tribune

Significant events in the European Union this week:
• Negotiators to the intergovernmental conference on EU reform meet in Brussels from Monday through Wednesday in an attempt to clarify agreements on institutional revisions outlined by EU leaders last week.

• President Bill Clinton meets Prime Minister Wim Kok of the Netherlands, the current EU president, and President Jacques Santer of the European Commission for the semi-annual U.S.-EU summit meeting. Key issues include efforts to conclude mutual recognition agreements to eliminate important non-tariff barriers to trade and talks on the Helms-Burton act.

Polish Voters Weigh a New Constitution

The Associated Press

WARSAW — Eight years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, Poles voted Sunday on a new constitution that sought to wipe out the last remnants of the Communist system and prepare Poland for a full integration into Europe.

The proposed charter, which would replace a 1952 Communist-era constitution, commits Poland to a market economy and private ownership. It also guarantees the personal freedoms necessary for entrance into the European Union and ensures the civilian control of the military required for Poland's goal of membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The draft also provides for a clearer division of powers between the prime minister and president, ensures the independence of the central bank and puts a ceiling on public debt.

Opinion polls leading up to the referendum indicated that most of Poland's 28 million eligible voters favored the draft, which requires a simple majority vote to become the new basic law. The polls were to close at 10 P.M. on Sunday, but official results were not expected until late Monday at the earliest.

The referendum, the last major political contest before legislative elections in September, has emphasized traditional political divisions.

Rightist parties, including the political successor to the Solidarity trade union that toppled the Communist government in 1989, are calling on supporters to reject the charter passed by the leftist Parliament dominated by former Communists.

The right criticizes the charter for not explicitly condemning the Communists for human-rights abuses during their rule. Solidarity also wanted a clear statement that a God-given law or universal set of values was higher than any law made by humans.

President Aleksander Kwasniewski, who led Parliament's constitutional committee for two years before being elected to the presidency, has been one of the charter's chief backers, saying it will usher in political stability.

The Roman Catholic church has criticized the constitution on moral grounds but said Poles should vote according to their own consciences. In gestures to the church, the constitution would outlaw homosexual marriages and guarantee the right to religious instruction in public schools. The charter does not specifically ban abortion, and the church objects to a clause that guarantees children's right to have a say in their religious training.

INDONESIA: Rioting on Borneo

Continued from Page 1

For the moment, the cooling-off period has held, with no reports of street rallies over the weekend. Rioting did flare Friday, when a small, mostly indigenous group of the time sanctioned political party, the United Development Party, was attacked by a group of about 250 members of the Indonesian National Revolution Army (TNI) in a village in the province of Kalimantan.

The TNI members were seen to be attacking the village because of the party's support for the Indonesian National Revolution Army (TNI) in the province of Kalimantan. The TNI members were seen to be attacking the village because of the party's support for the Indonesian National Revolution Army (TNI) in the province of Kalimantan.

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INTERNATIONAL

Land Mines: Canada's Case for Urgency

The "Ottawa track" is a Canadian-led effort aimed at a treaty in December banning anti-personnel mines. But Washington and some other governments have reservations. Ralph Lysyshyn, the senior Canadian diplomat handling the issue for Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, talked to Joseph Fitchett of the International Herald Tribune about the prospects for a treaty.

Q. Why have land mines suddenly emerged as an urgent problem?
A. Now that so many wars are over, people engaged in humanitarian relief see these things continue to blindly kill and maim — and cripple economies.

People can't farm their land if mines are scattered there. In Bosnia, there are millions of unmarked mines. Countries like Canada engaged in major de-mining efforts can't keep up: a mine costs about \$3 to make and about \$1,000 to dig out and destroy. Unless production is halted, people will get tired of paying for de-mining.

So there has been an effective coalition of governments, especially those in Africa and Asia that are major victims of these time bombs, and nongovernmental organizations such as the Red Cross and Unicef,

Q & A / Ralph Lysyshyn, senior diplomat

because so many children are victims.

Momentum has built rapidly because public opinion sees what is needed. It's a humanitarian problem, not an arms control issue.

Q. Aren't land mines important in warfare any longer?

A. Not the kind we're talking about — random anti-personnel mines. They can blow off a kid's foot but they don't stop tanks.

Military people's first reaction tends to be: "Oh no, they're extremely necessary, we use them in peacekeeping missions to protect our troops." But different answers emerge when you talk about actual practice: Canadian forces, for example, haven't used them since the Korean War, and we've been on an awful lot of peacekeeping missions.

When land mines are used, it's either in civil wars, mainly against civilians to deny them land, or in countries where the government sees them as a poor man's perimeter defense. They haven't thought

through the real cost calculation in terms of a country's arable land lost or tremendous long-term costs imposed by injuries.

Q. If the political climate is ripe, why is the United States hanging back?

A. The Clinton administration has made a strong commitment to eliminating land mines and sponsored a United Nations resolution last year in favor of a ban that got 156 votes.

We think that the Ottawa track translates that international will into concrete action. Our divergence with Washington is a matter of tactics. We believe in a fast-track, stand-alone process, but Washington prefers to see a treaty negotiated in the UN Disarmament Conference in Geneva.

Of course, we can see the argument, made in Washington, that Geneva is a forum that can draw in some reluctant countries because you can hammer out compromises discreetly.

But there are countries that don't want a ban and want to make the

whole process hostage to the cumbersome, slow procedure in Geneva, where the issue can't even get on the agenda because some countries are insisting that nothing else can be discussed until some nuclear disputes are addressed.

So substantive work on a treaty risks being inhibited by competition over the negotiating venue. We've managed to get the issue into the public eye, and we don't want to see it disappear again behind closed doors.

Q. Isn't there a risk that the Ottawa track is too fast? After all, aren't key countries — China, India, Russia — unready to sign?

A. You don't need everyone to sign up at the outset: a treaty will set a norm, create peer pressure. What we need is a complementary process, with Ottawa providing a fast start this year.

What we would like to see Geneva do — there is an awful lot of expertise there — is give us views with an eye to a stronger, more acceptable treaty at Ottawa.



But when we suggested informal exchanges with Washington, officials objected that talking to us would validate our approach and circumvent Geneva.

Now the logjam may be breaking. British policy has been changed under the new Labour government in favor of Ottawa, and France and Germany recently spoke out forcefully about the urgency of the issue.

We're confident now that the treaty will be signed in Ottawa. Some countries unready to sign then may feel that without slighting the Geneva conference they can proceed with interim measures such as banning the transfer of land mines.

Did Gorbachev Get U.S. NATO Pledge?

Baker Denies Barring Expansion

By Michael R. Gordon
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — The date was Feb. 8, 1990. Secretary of State James Baker 3d was meeting privately with Mikhail Gorbachev, the general secretary of the Soviet Union, over the emotionally charged issue of German reunification.

Mr. Baker's goal was to keep Germany in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It was a difficult sell, and he used all of his celebrated skills of persuasion. A neutral Germany, he warned ominously, would be free to develop nuclear weapons. Besides, he added, the West was prepared to offer Moscow an important assurance.

"There would be no extension of NATO's current jurisdiction eastward," Mr. Baker said.

More than seven years later, that meeting casts a shadow over Russia's dealings with NATO as the military alliance prepares to expand to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Evincing a bitter sense of betrayal, former and current Russian officials say the expansion flatly contradicts Mr. Baker's assurances.

"When we were told during the German reunification process that NATO would not expand, we believed it," Anatoli Adamishin, a former deputy foreign minister who is Russia's ambassador to Britain, complained to The Daily Telegraph of London.

Nor are the Russians the only ones who say Washington switched signals. "When Gorbachev and others say that it is their understanding NATO expansion would not happen, there is a basis for it," Jack Matlock, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow at the time, said in a telephone interview.

The dispute made it all the more important, Russians say, to pin down the West's latest assurances in the new NATO-Russian accord, named the Founding Act, which sets the terms for the alliance's expansion. It is to be signed in Paris on Tuesday.

But did the United States really pull a fast one on the Russians? And will the much heralded NATO-Russia ac-

cord put an end to the complaints of broken promises?

Philip Zelikow, a former National Security Council aide and co-author of "Germany Unified and Europe Transformed," a history of the diplomacy of German reunification, provided a surprising answer.

Mr. Zelikow said that close scrutiny of the verbal diplomatic exchange does not support Moscow's claim that it was bamboozled.

Seeking to ease Soviet anxieties over reunification, West Germany's foreign minister at the time, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, urged the West to offer Moscow a major concession: If Germany reunified, there would be "no expansion of NATO territory eastward."

Mr. Genscher sold Mr. Baker on the idea, and Mr. Baker flew to Moscow that February to try it on Mr. Gorbachev. The Soviet leader was receptive, according to Mr. Zelikow's authoritative account.

"Any extension of the zone of NATO is unacceptable," Mr. Gorbachev stressed. "I agree," Mr. Baker responded.

That, however, was not the end. Almost immediately, the White House had second thoughts about the Genscher plan.

Before Mr. Baker had even left Moscow, the White House instructed him to pursue a different plan: All German territory would be in NATO. East German territory would not be demilitarized. But as a concession to Russia, only German forces would be stationed there.

Mr. Gorbachev eventually agreed to the new arrangements. But what of the broader issue of NATO expansion?

Mr. Matlock said the Russians have a point when they say Mr. Gorbachev received a blanket promise that NATO would not expand. Mr. Baker adamantly rejects this view. He said he never intended to rule out the admission of new NATO members. The proposal on NATO jurisdiction had applied only to territory of the former East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, and had been speedily withdrawn.

U.S. Acts to Help Swiss Guard

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate has approved a bill to grant asylum to Christophe Meili, a Swiss bank guard who saved some Holocaust-era documents from a shredder.

Similar legislation must be approved by the House and signed by President Bill Clinton before Mr. Meili and his family are granted permanent residency in the United States.

"He deserves the support and appreciation of all people and I'm proud to have passed this legislation in the Senate on his behalf," said Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Republican of New York, sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. Meili was working at a bank in Switzerland last January when he came across documents dating to the Holocaust that the bank planned to destroy. He slipped the documents out of the bank and gave them to a Jewish organization.

At a hearing this week, Mr. Meili, 29, told lawmakers he no longer feels safe in his homeland and that he, his wife and their two children have been threatened. They fled to the United States last month.

Iraqis Are Still Suffering From Shortages, UN Says

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Despite oil sales that allowed the Iraqi government to buy almost \$2 billion worth of humanitarian supplies,

large numbers of Iraqis are still suffering from critical shortages of food and medicine, according to the United Nations official in charge of humanitarian operations.

After a weeklong visit to Iraq, Asushi Akashi, the UN undersecretary-general, said that despite some glitches supplies obtained under Iraq's food-for-oil deal were reaching that beleaguered country.

He added that President Saddam Hussein's government had not interfered with UN observers monitoring distribution, and that "so far there is no evidence of discrimination against any particular group on political, economic or religious grounds."

But the conditions of sick people "continue to be deplorable," Mr. Akashi said. "There are many emaciated children. You can see on the hospital shelves that there clearly is a lack of medicine. They have to use dangerously old needles over and over."

Mr. Akashi described his impressions as UN members prepared for another look at Iraq's demands for lifting of the crippling economic sanctions imposed on it after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Last December, the Security Council granted a partial exemption from the embargo that allowed Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies. The agreement expires June 9.

The Iraqis have called for an expanded program permitting oil sales of \$4 billion in the next period. Many UN members, motivated by a desire for business opportunities in Iraq or sympathy for the Iraqi people, believe the sanctions should be eased considerably. However, the United States, which has a veto over any Security Council actions, has vowed to maintain the embargo as long as Mr. Saddam remains unrepentant about his aggressive designs on his neighbors.

The U.S. ambassador, Bill Richardson, has said the United States was concerned about "a lack of transparency" in the relief distribution that made it difficult to tell whether supplies were reaching their intended recipients.

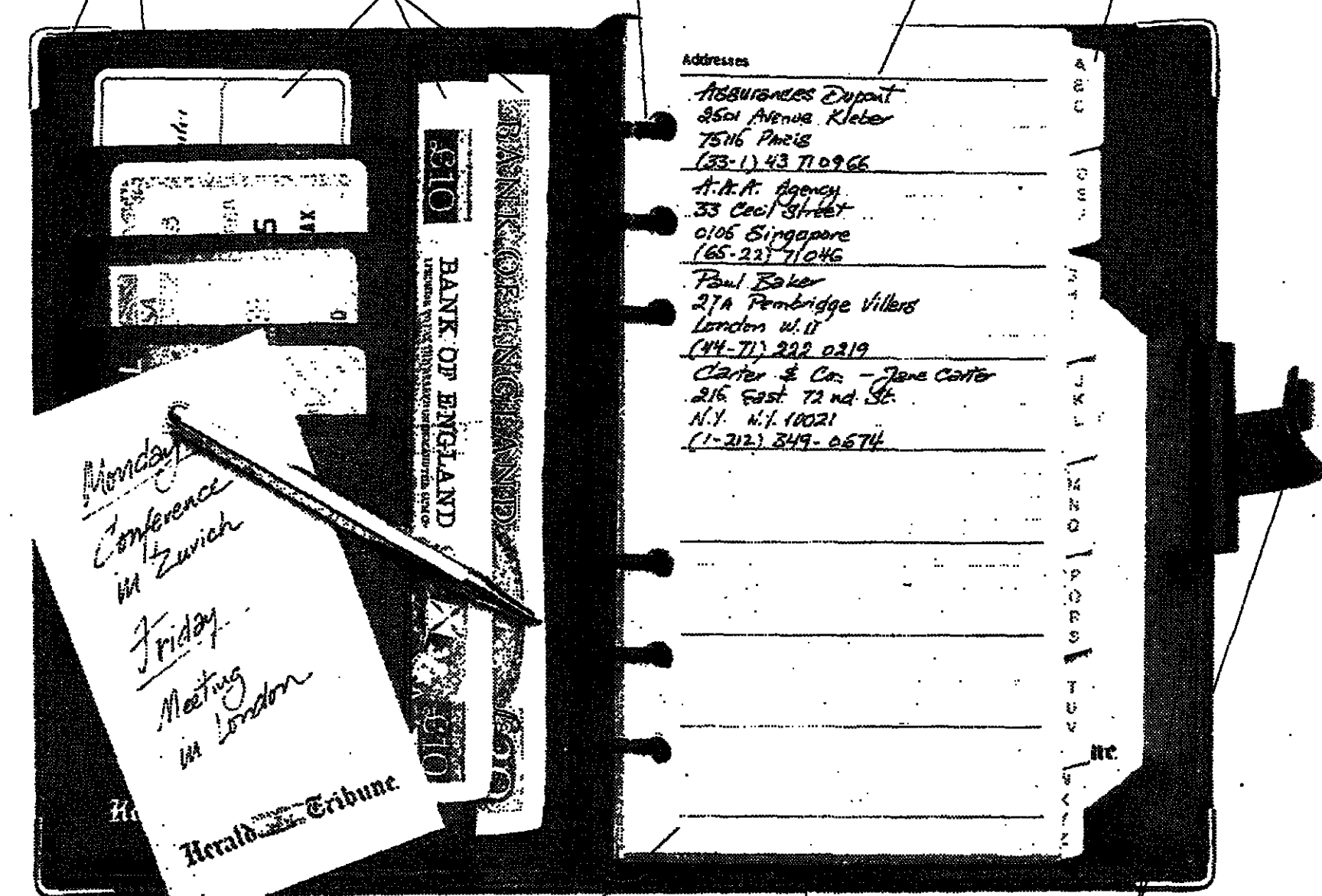
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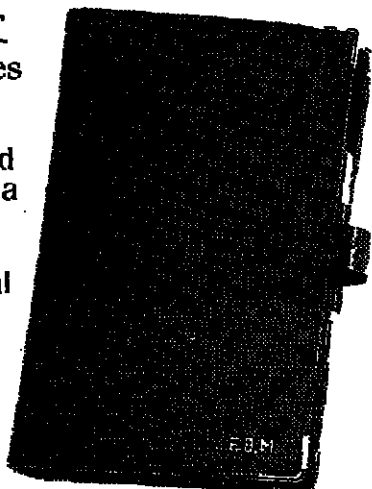
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Khatemi, Iran's 'Ayatollah Gorbachev,' Has a Taste for Western Ideas

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

TEHRAN — Mohammed Khatemi, Iran's next president, is not your average mullah. True, he is an ayatollah's son who studied Islamic theology in the spiritual center of Qum, where he wrote and distributed leaflets denouncing the American-backed Shah. During the early years of the Islamic republic, he was one of its leading propagandists.

But for all his revolutionary credentials, the Shiite Muslim cleric is considered a relative liberal whose election could presage a significant relaxation of Iran's social and cultural atmosphere and — possibly — a gradual warming of relations with the West.

Currently the head of Iran's national library, Mr. Khatemi, 54, speaks English and German, is conversant in the works of Immanuel Kant and Alexis de Tocqueville and, as culture minister for 11 years, encouraged the post-revolutionary flowering of Iranian cinema, according to associates, foreign diplomats and political analysts. Unlike many of his fellow mullahs, Mr.

Khatemi enjoys a reputation for personal probity. He drives a boxy Iranian-made Paykan instead of a Mercedes-Benz and lives modestly in a two-story yellow-brick town house on Revolutionary Guard Street in north Tehran. Married and the father of three children, Mr. Khatemi is said to enjoy mountain hikes and a good game of table tennis.

The contrast between Mr. Khatemi and the hard-line clerics who dominate Iran's political establishment is such that some Iranians refer to him half-jokingly as Ayatollah Gorbachev, after the leader of the former Soviet Union who opened that country to the West in the late 1980s.

"He was definitely the anti-establishment vote," said an individual who worked for Mr. Khatemi for several years in the 1980s and has remained in contact with him. "People shouldn't interpret that as thinking he's not an advocate of the Islamic revolution, but he's a much more broad-minded advocate of the Islamic revolution."

When he went to Mr. Khatemi's office in November to urge him to run for president, this person recalled, he found Mr. Khatemi writing a translation in longhand of de Tocqueville's classic treatise on American democracy. "We talked

about de Tocqueville, and he said, 'I'm not going to comment on what the Americans have done, but obviously the question of achieving democracy is essential to achieving human potential,' the associate recalled.

"He is not someone who considers democracy alien to Islam," he added. "He thinks it's right there, but the Muslims have missed it."

Born in the city of Yazd in the desert of southwestern Iran, Mr. Khatemi is the son of a well-known ayatollah, Ruhollah Khatemi, who was a friend and early supporter of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the father of the Iranian revolution. Mr. Khatemi, in fact, is linked to Ayatollah Khomeini by family; his brother is married to Ayatollah Khomeini's granddaughter.

Mr. Khatemi's father, who died 10 years ago, enjoyed a reputation for fairness. "Right after the revolution some people came to him and named a number of men who had cooperated with the Shah," one associate recalled. "They wanted them executed or thrown in prison. But his answer was, 'If you want to put them in prison, put me in prison first because I had to cooperate, too.'"

After finishing his theological studies at Qum

and Isfahan, the younger Khatemi got degrees in education and philosophy. He became friends with Ayatollah Khomeini's son, Ahmed, according to an official biography, and went to work for the Militant Clerics' Association, which rallied opposition to the Shah's regime.

Eventually he came to the attention of Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, chief ideologue of the Islamic Republican Party and a key tactician of the revolution. In 1978, Ayatollah Beheshti appointed him to run the Islamic Center of Hamburg, a European nerve center of the Iranian revolution.

Mr. Khatemi returned to Iran in 1979 and took over the Kayhan Institute, which publishes several newspapers. In 1982, he was appointed minister of culture and Islamic guidance, which oversees Iranian films, publishing and mass media.

As culture minister, a job he held for more than a decade, Mr. Khatemi encouraged Iranian filmmakers to take part in international festivals, eased restrictions on the content of books and periodicals, and expanded the list of foreign magazines and newspapers allowed to enter the

country, according to several associates. He overturned a ban on live music.

Mr. Khatemi's relatively permissive policies won him many enemies, who finally forced his resignation in 1992. "Every day it was something new," recalled Ahmad Boorjani, a journalist who is close to the Khatemi campaign. "Why did you give a license to that newspaper? Why did you give a license to that book? It was every day. It wasn't any single incident."

Since Mr. Khatemi left, "we have followed a downward trend," said Dariush Mehrjoui, one of Iran's best-known filmmakers. "They still go on producing films, but they're more restrictive."

Mr. Khatemi told a jubilant crowd last Wednesday night: "Our backwardness is not due to natural resources or culture — we have both. Iranians are smart and creative, they are known for confidence and bravery. The problem is due to the lack of a correct, independent government. People do not have the opportunity to grow. Growth as a country needs sympathy, cooperation, presence in the social scene. It does not mean we should not allow different views."

Apathy Makes a Strong Showing

Almost One-Third Abstain in French Vote



A French voter pondering his choice before voting Sunday in Toulouse.

By Charles Trueheart
and Anne Swanson
Washington Post Service

VELIZY, France — Almost a third of France's 39 million registered voters did not bother to choose a candidate in the first round of the country's legislative elections Sunday.

Maria Francois, a supermarket employee on her lunch break at a shopping mall in suburban Paris, scowled at the mention of the elections. "Right or left, it's always the same thing, the same politics," she said. "That's why I've never voted."

As President Jacques Chirac's center-right governing alliance sought a new five-year parliamentary mandate, disillusionment with the traditional parties of both right and left appeared high. Polling organizations predicted an abstention level ranging from 31.5 to 32.8 percent.

Candidates working their legislative districts said they had rarely met anyone pleased with the state of things in France, regardless of their political preference. The headline on this week's Marianne magazine read: "The great rejection: The French are going to say [expletive] to the right without saying 'cheers' to the left."

Polling analysts and political professionals predicted a broad diffusion of votes among an unprecedented number of small parties and candidates — more than 6,243 for 577 legislative seats — in this first round. Caroline Lambin, a mother of two, said she would go to her local polling place "because it's my right and my duty," but she said she would

deposit a blank ballot as "a protest vote," signifying that "no party is capable of doing something concrete for France."

She explained, "If I vote right, it won't change anything, and the left does not represent my opinion." Her husband, she said, always voted for the left, but he was so disillusioned after the Socialist Party's 14 years in power — the 1981-95 presidency of Francois Mitterrand — that he too would cast a blank ballot.

The right is in ill favor, in part because of the unpopularity of Prime Minister Alain Juppe, who is seen by many as a cold-blooded technocrat. One survey asked respondents who should be prime minister if Mr. Chirac's coalition retained power, and Mr. Juppe got only 8 percent support.

But the Socialists also are sharply criticized for their record and their rhetoric. When Mr. Mitterrand won the presidency in 1981, hopes were high among a wide proportion of the population. Since then, the economy has deteriorated, unemployment has soared to 12.8 percent, and the budget deficit has skyrocketed.

The public blames both sides, but all in all, polls indicate voters will give the governing neo-Gaullist alliance a narrow majority of seats in the National Assembly, the lower house.

"The left ruined France," said Fabien Laporte, who sells health insurance. "Mitterrand raped the state coffers." Mr. Laporte was one of the few unqualified true believers interviewed. He said he would vote for the center-right because: "I believe in capitalism. I believe in the way Bill Clinton is moving his country, and it is where it is today because of capitalism."

Patrick Ratovoa, who is self-employed, said he would vote for the center-right because it offered "a rigorous policy" that was closer to the reality of the international economic environment. "The left is oblivious to this, and the proof is the way they make a mess of things with strikes," he said.

In the north of France, Marie-Therese Deman, a municipal councilor in Crepy-en-Valois, said she believed the widespread disappointment with Mr. Mitterrand's presidency would be overcome if the Socialists under Lionel Jospin gained control of the legislature.

"In life, we don't make the same mistake twice," she said. "We need a more human Europe. We mustn't leave people in the wake of capitalism. Where I live, in a marginal neighborhood, hardly anyone can even afford to take a vacation anymore. The work they get is precarious; the benefits don't even cover the cost of living."

In the runoff next Sunday, all but a few districts will have a choice between two candidates, one from the mainstream alliance of the Rally for the Republic and the French Democratic Union and one from the Socialist Party or one of its allies, including Communists and environmentalists of various stripes.

A few three-way races are possible in districts where candidates of the far-rightist National Front win more than 12.5 percent of the vote, the minimum required for the runoff if no candidate has a majority.



A crowd removing posters of Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri on Sunday from the wall around the former U.S. Embassy.

IRAN: Landslide for Moderate Cleric as People Signal Discontent

Continued from Page 1

is important and all the officials of this country are going to pay attention, and within the framework of the constitution and Islamic laws, I will pay attention," he said. "Maybe some of the restrictions that had been imposed have been excessive."

Despite Mr. Khatemi's huge popular mandate, there are major constraints on the ability of any Iranian politician to introduce a more liberal atmosphere. Under the Iranian constitution, the basis of the Iranian system of government is the concept of *velayat-e-faqih*, or rule by an Islamic spiritual leader. Candidates for Parliament and for president are screened for their fealty to this concept by the Council of Guardians, a clerical body of 12 members who are appointed by the leader and by Parliament.

The council has the power to reject candidates without explanation and annual results of elections it does not like, as it did in several instances in the parliamentary elections last year. In this year's presidential contest, the council rejected all but four of 238 candidates.

Both Mr. Khatemi and Mr. Nateq-Nouri are loyal servants of the revolution who hold the clerical rank of *hojatol-Islam*, one grade below *ayatollah*. And the rigid ideological standards imposed upon the candidates means that political debate in Iran takes place within a very narrow range. Both Mr. Nateq-Nouri and Mr. Khatemi laced their platforms with about the dangers of U.S. "hegemony" and Western cultural influence and the need to broaden economic ties with Third World countries.

But Iranian voters have learned to look elsewhere for clues. Mr. Khatemi, for example, was perceived as more broad minded than his rival because of his relatively permissive attitude toward books, films and music during his 11-year tenure as culture minister. Hard-

liners forced him from the job in 1992.

Mr. Nateq-Nouri, by contrast, was identified with religious hard-liners who are resented by many Iranians for failing to solve Iran's economic problems. He also suffered from accusations that he wanted to require women to wear the chador, a black shroud that hides the body and much of the face, rather than the scarf-and-riocao ensemble that many now favor. Though such distinctions might seem trivial to the outside world, they resonated with Iranians, who saw in them larger indications of the candidates' attitudes towards social freedom and openness to the outside world.

Nowhere was the excitement felt more strongly than the young, a vital constituency in a country where more than half of its 60 million people are under 18 and the voting age is 15. "The

youth has been very influential in bringing Mr. Khatemi to power," Mr. Rafsanjani acknowledged. "New attention should be paid to this force."

The lopsided outcome of the election was a firm rebuke to hard-line clerics who have dominated Iranian politics since the 1979 revolution that toppled the pro-American Shah. As such, Mr. Khatemi's victory could foreshadow an era of greater social freedom and political pluralism and, eventually, an opening for better relations with the West, according to political analysts and foreign diplomats.

"People are looking for new faces, new visions," said a prominent Iranian academic who advised the Khatemi campaign and spoke on condition of anonymity. "They have gotten tired of the status quo. It's not a vote to overhaul the system, but it is definitely a vote to change."



President Rafsanjani commenting at a Sunday press conference on Mohammed Khatemi's victory. He acknowledged a public yearning for change.

FRANCE: Voters Stun the Government

Continued from Page 1

Victory, he would name a new prime minister in the place of Mr. Juppe, whose record was repudiated beyond appeal by the poor showing of his coalition.

The strongest vote-getter among likely successors is thought to be Philippe Seguin, the speaker of Parliament, who has made no secret of his belief that Mr. Juppe was moving too quickly, and without the right touch, to pare down France's heavily subsidized public service sector.

Mr. Seguin, a Gaullist close to the leftist wing of the party, has come out

publicly, albeit reluctantly, in support of a single currency, but he is viewed with some apprehension in Germany as a half-hearted supporter of French-German cooperation.

Most analysts, together with diplomats and foreign investors, had expected Mr. Juppe's center-right coalition to emerge with a slim lead despite the government's lack of popularity. But Mr. Juppe was never able to shake a reputation for being brutal in announcing change and soft in backing off when confronted with protests.

For four years, the conservatives have enjoyed a lopsided majority in Parliament, with 475 of the 577 seats, since their landslide victory marking the end of 14 years of Socialist rule. But that comfortable majority has been only a facade for splits among conservatives since Mr. Chirac was elected president in 1995 and six months later embraced a new program, including a single European currency, sharp cuts in government spending and more competitive work practices.

Mr. Juppe sought to press this agenda, but he often announced over-ambitious reforms, only to back down in the face of strikes. This pattern earned him a reputation as both heartless and inept. And despite his determination and brilliance, he was unable to shake his damaging personal image.

Juppe Has an Identity Crisis

BORDEAUX — Prime Minister Alain Juppe ran into a hitch when he turned up to vote on Sunday in France's parliamentary election and a polling official demanded proof of his identity.

"Normally it's enough to be well known," Mr. Juppe objected when the official asked for his identity card at a polling station in Bordeaux.

"No, no, no, no! Everyone must show an identity card," the official replied. Mr. Juppe, who is mayor of the city as well as candidate in the National Assembly vote, got out his wallet and fumbled through banknotes to find his card.

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Democracy in South America Helps to End 'Disappearances'

By Barbara Crossette
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Reflecting the changes that democratically elected governments have brought to Latin America and the Caribbean, political "disappearances" have almost ended in the Western Hemisphere, a United Nations group of experts has concluded.

Asia is now the region with the largest number of people who have vanished, apparently at the hands of armies or police forces. It is also the region with the most new cases of disappearances, say members of the panel, known as the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

In cumulative terms, Latin America still has hundreds of missing people, but measured by new cases, the region has changed remarkably, the group says.

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and Nicaragua were among the nations in the Western Hemisphere where no disappearances were reported in 1996, although several countries still have backlogs of unexplained cases. New cases were reported in Colombia, Hon-

duras, Mexico and Peru, but on a far smaller scale than in the past.

In Asia, almost without exception, people from ethnic or cultural minorities that are at odds with central governments account for most of the disappearances.

The group's last published report, issued in December, said that there were 17 new cases registered in China in 1996, and 16 of them were Tibetans, including eight monks. The group said that private organizations report "an emerging pattern of disappearances" in Tibet.

In India the group has a list of more than 250 cases of mostly Kashmiris and Punjabi Sikhs allegedly picked up by soldiers or police forces in recent years. Seven disappearances were reported in Pakistan last year and those and about 50 other outstanding cases involve members of the Muhajir National Movement of India-born Muslims and their descendants, who say they have faced discrimination in Sind Province and its capital, Karachi, the country's largest city.

In Indonesia most registered cases of disappearances are in East Timor, a still-disputed territory Jakarta annexed in the mid-1970s where many residents are of

3 Ministers Resign As Prague Plans Cabinet Shake-Up

Agency France-Press

PRAGUE — Three ministers in the Czech government have resigned in advance of an expected reshuffling of the cabinet this week.

Finance Minister Ivan Kocmárik and Interior Minister Jan Ruml, both from Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus's Civic Democratic Party, resigned as the executive committees of the three main parties in the center-right majority met Saturday. The minister of trade and industry, Vladimir Dlouhý, from the Civic Democratic Alliance, also resigned.

The Czech currency has come under heavy pressure in the past days, forcing the central bank to intervene and raise interest rates.

indigenous or Portuguese descent and are Christian or follow traditional tribal religions. Islam is the religion of a majority of Indonesia's people and its army.

In Iran, 509 people have been listed as missing, most of them arrested from 1981 to 1989 for opposition to the Islamic government.

2000: Russia Seeks Help in Coping With Looming Software Chaos

Continued from Page 1

rors or shut down. The range of areas in which the Year 2000 glitch could cause problems was laid out in a report by the Pentagon this month.

They include not only business functions such as financial management, personal management, health care, contract management and logistics management but also support of such military operations as mobilizing, deploying and maneuvering forces and the weapons systems used by them plus intelligence, surveillance and security efforts.

Mr. Lawrence of the Dupuy Institute called the Russian situation critical but not apocalyptic. "Nobody is considering a scenario so doomsday," he said, "that on Jan. 1, 2000, in Russia, all the missiles are going to launch."

But the economic and social impact of the failure to deal with the problem clearly is large.

It was unclear whether Mr. Gorbachev stood to benefit personally from any U.S.-financed efforts to help Russia with the 2000 problem.

Mr. Lawrence said the institute's fund-raising program had been structured to make it clear that the money was going where it was intended. Money will be collected and disbursed from the institute's offices in McLean, Virginia, he

said, and Mr. Gorbachev will serve as project director, but his institute will play no role. Checks to pay for projects to correct the problem in Russia will require the signatures of Mr. Lawrence, the institute's president and its chairman.

Mr. Gorbachev's role in seeking a solution is not as unlikely as it might seem, a specialist in Russian information technology said.

"That doesn't surprise me at all," said Wilson Dizard, co-author of Mr. Gorbachev's "Information Revolution" and a senior researcher at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Gorbachev is sort of the AI Core of Russia, someone who takes a keen interest in the world of information."

Russia invested heavily in mainframe computers, which are more likely to need Year 2000 fixes than are the more modern personal computers.

Much of the U.S. software used in Russia is unlicensed — meaning that vendors will not provide information on fixes. And the government has not systematically upgraded its computers.

Most Western industrialized countries have been examining the 2000 problem for at least a year or two. The United States, Britain and Canada are probably the furthest along.

But the Russians, said Harrison Miller, president of the Information

Technology Association of America, have done nothing. "They haven't started to do any work," he said, "and they don't have any money to do it."

With a little more than 30 months to go before the date change, other countries also face serious problems. Mr. Miller said Western Europe could be six to nine months behind the United States, slowed in part by the need to modify computers to deal with a single European currency, and Asian, South American and other countries have not come nearly far enough.

How much money might be required in Russia is a matter of speculation. In the United States, the Office of Management and Budget has estimated the cost of fixing government computers at \$3.2 billion. But industry sources and others said the true figure might be five to 10 times that much.

Russell George, a congressional aide who took part in the meeting with Mr. Gorbachev, said, "If we were forced to put a figure on costs for the U.S. government, we'd say \$7 billion to \$15 billion." The Department of Defense expects to spend \$1.1 billion, a spokesman said. Russia is less reliant on computers than the United States. But its military can be expected to face a similar range of Year 2000 challenges — just when its budget has been slashed and its staff is demoralized.

CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Three New Equity-Linked Bond Issues: Is This the Start of a Revival?

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Three issues hardly constitute a trend. But three new equity-linked bond offerings might open the way to revive this once-vibrant sector of the international capital market if — as many say — growth has been hampered by an inability to breach the price gap caused by the aversion of investors and the stinginess of corporate treasurers.

Since 1991, the volume outstanding of bonds convertible into stock has declined to \$166 billion from \$282 billion. Private companies accounted for 63 percent of total annual activity at the start of this decade. They now account for 25 percent.

Borrowing by commercial users simply has not kept pace with the explosion in issuance by financial institutions and the continuing expansion in

the supply of paper from governments and state agencies. Analysts say the decline in overall equity-based issuance has just about matched the shrinking market share of nonfinancial corporate issuers in the overall market. In percentage terms, the 60 percent decline in the market share of nonfinancial corporate issues matches the reduced role of equity-linked bonds, which now account for a mere 7 percent of total bond issuance, down from the peak of 18 percent in 1989.

But bankers reject the suggestion that growth in the equity-linked sector has slowed only because companies already have the cash they need. They note that activity is buoyant in the U.S. market, which is now as accessible to short-term investors as the international market always has been more willing to accept aggressive pricing.

The stumbling block in the international market, some analysts say, is that

investors have been unwilling to pay more than a 20 percent premium over current market prices for the option to buy a company's shares. That explains

Investors have been unwilling to pay 20% more for the option to buy a company's shares.

the interest in last week's issues, which were designed to get investors to accept much higher-than-usual conversion premiums.

Daily Mail & General Trust PLC, owner of a large block of Reuters PLC shares, sold £75 million (\$122.6 million) of seven-year notes exchangeable into shares in the news agency. The notes, which pay interest of 2.5 percent,

were sold at a discount so that investors paid £794.70 for paper that would be worth £1,000 at maturity. Investors will have the choice of taking the £1,000 cash or using the paper to take a fixed number of Reuters shares.

The number of shares fixed at the subscription price represented a cash value of 16 percent over the current share price of 678 pence. At maturity, for investors to benefit from choosing shares instead of cash, the value of the shares will have to have risen by more than 46 percent.

The notes offer an annual income of more than the 2.1 percent dividend currently paid by Reuters. In addition, the effective yield to maturity, given the implicit capital gain on redemption of the notes, is 6 percent, about a percentage point below what investors would have earned by investing in British government bonds, or gilts, of the

same maturity.

A similar construction was used by Assicurazioni Generali SpA, Italy's largest insurance company, to reduce its shareholding in the life-insurance company Allianz Assicurazioni. For tax reasons, the shares have been transferred to Mediobanca SpA, which has issued 915 billion lire (\$548.1 million) of five-year notes, carrying an annual coupon of 2 percent, that are exchangeable into Allianz shares.

Investors will pay 17,367,200 lire for paper with a face value of 20 million lire. At the offering terms, the shares were priced at a premium of 12.7 percent over the current price. But at maturity, the share price will have to have risen by 30 percent to make it worthwhile for bondholders to take the shares instead of insisting on cash repayment.

If all the bonds are exchanged for shares, Generali's holding would be cut

to 54 percent from the current 64 percent; and if, as expected, additional bonds are sold over the coming month, the holding in Allianz could be reduced to 52 percent.

In another transaction, Atmel Corp., a California-based semiconductor company, sold \$150 million of five-year notes convertible into Atmel stock at \$35.50 a share, or 27 percent over the current price.

Interest is set at 3.25 percent for the first three years and then rises to 8.25 percent. But if the stock price has risen by more than 40 percent from the conversion price, or to more than \$49.70, the company can avoid paying the higher coupon and call the issue, effectively forcing holders to convert to stock. If the stock fails to perform as the company expects, noteholders will have earned an effective annual yield of 5.2 percent over the five years.

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending May 23. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rank Name Cpn Maturity Price Yield

Argentine Peso

196 Argentina 8% 12/1/98 100.2578 8.7300

244 Argentina 3.238 04/01/07 105.2500 3.0700

Austrian Schilling

232 Austria 5% 04/11/07 99.0000 5.8100

British Pound

97 World Bank zero 07/17/00 79.5000 7.5400

130 Philips 6% 06/07/02 96.2500 7.0000

140 Fortis Mac 7% 10/01/06 94.2500 7.2700

152 Boylston Bk 12% 12/1/01 94.1579 7.6400

188 World Bank 6.10 03/17/00 98.0613 6.2200

235 Cofin Trans 9 02/04/07 98.2500 9.1600

Danish Krone

5 Denmark 8 03/15/06 110.4500 7.2300

12 Denmark 7 11/15/07 103.2000 6.7800

18 Denmark 9 11/15/98 107.0500 8.4100

25 Denmark 9 11/15/00 113.3500 7.9200

27 Denmark 8 11/15/01 111.4000 7.1800

37 Denmark 8 12/10/99 103.8400 5.7800

41 Denmark 7 12/15/04 105.5300 6.3600

58 Denmark 7 11/15/02 111.5500 6.9000

60 Denmark 7 11/15/04 95.8400 7.3200

66 Denmark 6 10/01/02 99.2000 6.7800

105 Nykredit 6% 10/01/06 94.2500 7.2700

128 Nykredit 6% 10/01/06 94.2500 7.2700

134 Real Kredit 6% 10/01/06 94.2500 7.2700

147 Denmark 7 06/15/02 102.7100 6.8100

172 Denmark 8 08/15/97 100.6500 6.9500

227 Denmark 4 02/15/00 99.2500 4.0300

Deutsche Mark

1 Germany 6 01/04/07 101.0077 5.9400

3 Germany 6 04/26/06 103.1950 6.0600

4 Germany 4 01/12/01 102.0577 4.6900

6 Germany 8 01/21/02 113.0975 7.0700

7 Germany 6 07/04/07 101.0341 5.9400

9 Germany 9 03/19/99 106.9235 7.3200

10 Germany 5 05/21/01 102.8404 6.3100

11 Germany 6% 05/21/05 109.0040 6.3100

13 Germany 7% 01/03/05 110.7675 6.6600

16 Germany 6% 04/11/05 102.9000 6.1000

19 Germany 8% 02/21/01 102.8757 5.1000

21 Germany 5 08/20/01 101.7000 4.9200

22 Germany 6 01/05/04 101.5980 5.9100

24 Germany 7% 09/09/04 111.5133 7.3600

26 Germany 6 02/16/06 101.5733 5.9100

28 Germany 6% 01/04/04 94.9471 6.2800

30 Germany 6% 01/04/04 94.9471 6.2800

32 Germany 8% 09/20/01 113.7250 7.5500

33 Germany 8% 08/20/01 115.5300 7.5700

35 Germany 8% 08/22/00 104.3763 5.4900

36 Germany 7% 06/11/02 108.3400 6.3400

39 Germany 7% 11/11/04 111.5500 6.7200

40 Germany 8 07/22/02 114.2605 7.0000

43 Germany 7% 01/29/03 109.8800 6.5000

Rank Name Cpn Maturity Price Yield

101 Germany 6 04/20/06 94.9475 6.3200

102 Germany 8% 08/21/00 112.4400 7.5500

109 Treuhand 5% 02/29/99 103.9800 5.3300

110 Germany 8% 07/20/01 113.1800 7.7300

111 Germany 5% 05/28/99 103.9700 5.3300

124 Germany 8 09/22/97 101.5000 7.8900

126 Germany 5% 08/20/98 102.7800 5.3900

133 Germany 6% 02/20/98 102.3100 6.1200

141 Treuhand 5% 09/24/96 102.1400 4.9700

143 Germany 6% 01/20/98 102.1400 4.9700

144 Treuhand 5% 09/24/96 102.1400 4.9700

145 Germany 5% 02/23/99 103.0541 5.2200

151 Germany 5 12/15/98 102.1900 4.9700

153 Germany 7% 11/15/02 110.2700 6.6500

154 Treuhand 7 11/15/02 107.4768 6.5100

155 Treuhand 8% 09/10/04 106.3000 7.6400

158 Germany 7% 10/20/97 101.4800 7.3800

160 KFW 5% 03/12/07 94.7000 5.6900

161 Treuhand 6% 03/24/96 102.3200 5.9900

167 Germany 6% 05/22/00 112.6500 7.6400

174 Germany 6 02/20/98 101.9700 5.8800

186 Dresdner Fin 8% 09/10/04 105.4400 6.5200

191 Germany 6% 04/21/99 106.7800 5.9900

196 Germany 8% 07/19/97 100.7400 8.1900

211 Germany 6% 05/20/98 102.9150 6.1900

218 Eurofinfin 8% 12/17/01 106.7000 8.2000

240 EIB 6 10/22/03 103.9850 5.7700

248 Germany 6% 07/20/98 103.7200 6.5100

250 Germany 5 11/20/97 100.9800 5.2000

Dutch Guilder

32 Netherlands 6% 07/15/98 102.9500 6.0700

33 Netherlands 5% 01/15/07 99.7000 5.7700

72 Netherlands 7% 04/15/10 113.0500 6.4300

82 Netherlands 7 03/15/99 103.5500 6.4300

86 Netherlands 6 01/15/05 112.4000 5.8800

88 Netherlands 8% 03/15/01 113.5500 7.6200

93 Netherlands 6% 11/15/05 107.1000 6.3000

99 Netherlands 8% 02/15/00 110.4500 7.4700

101 Netherlands 7% 06/15/99 107.1300 7.0800

113 Netherlands 9 01/15/01 114.8000 7.8400

118 Netherlands 7% 03/07/05 113.6000 6.8200

119 Netherlands 7% 01/15/03 112.4000 6.4300

125 Netherlands zero 07/15/97 99.4000 0.0000

148 Netherlands 8% 05/15/02 114.8000 7.1900

156 Netherlands 9 07/01/00 113.5000 7.9300

165 Netherlands 7 11/15/97 105.4000 6.7900

168 Netherlands 8% 06/10/06 119.2000 7.1300

171 Netherlands 6% 07/15/98 103.2000 6.3000

176 Netherlands 5% 01/15/04 102.1500 5.6300

191 Netherlands 8% 05/15/05 108.1500 6.3000

195 Netherlands 9 05/15/02 103.5000 5.5600

199 Netherlands 11% 01/15/00 112.4000 7.7800

203 Netherlands 8% 10/01/98 104.0000 6.4900

216 Netherlands 4% 11/30/00 115.2000 8.0100

230 Netherlands 6% 04/15/02 108.6000 6.5000

Rank Name Cpn Maturity Price Yield

121 Italy 3% 04/08/05 106.8750 3.5100

127 World Bank 4% 03/20/03 112.9332 3.9900

139 Spain 3.10 02/20/04 112.7250 3.6400

142 World Bank 4% 12/20/04 115.5500 4.1000

185 World Bank 4% 04/20/00 109.1250 4.1200

207 Deutsche Bk 4.30 08/25/97 99.8181 4.2900

210 World Bank 4% 12/27/97 102.5300 4.4000

246 Fannie Mae 2 12/29/99 101.6250 1.9700

South African Rand

204 EBRD zero 04/07/27 3.2667 12.1200

Spanish Peseta

193 Spain 8.80 04/30/04 112.4400 7.5700

226 Spain 10.10 02/28/01 115.5400 8.7400

233 Spain 11.30 01/15/02 122.3360 9.2400

Swedish Krona

38 Sweden 11 01/21/99 109.4500 10.5000

103 Sweden 6% 02/09/08 95.8479 6.2000

107 Sweden 5% 04/12/02 97.2500 5.4400

115 Sweden 6% 05/25/06 96.9130 6.7100

114 Sweden 1036 10% 02/08/00 112.8478 9.0800

136 Sweden 13 06/15/01 125.3250 10.7000

146 Sweden 1037 8 08/15/07 107.0830 7.4700

175 Sweden 10% 05/05/03 118.8450 8.6200

U.S. Dollar

2 Brazil Cap S.L. 4% 04/15/14 90.6872 5.5800

8 Argentina Int L 5% 02/01/05 92.6560 5.7300

14 Argentina FRN 4% 03/29/05 90.3488 7.4700

15 Brazil L FRN 6% 04/15/04 90.7088 7.5800

17 Venezuela FRN 6% 12/18/07 95.3000 7.1800

20 Argentina 11% 01/20/17 107.3466 10.4000

29 Mexico 11% 05/15/26 110.2519 10.4000

34 Brazil FRN 6% 01/01/01 96.3000 6.6100

42 Ecuador FRN 6% 01/21/19 107.3466 10.4000

46 Brazil S.L. FRN 6% 04/15/24 81.2142 8.4700

57 Mexico par A 4% 12/31/19 74.9063 8.3400

61 Venezuela par A 6% 03/31/20 87.5068 8.9300

64 Bulgaria FRN 6% 07/28/11 67.0590 9.7800

65 Land Offshore Bk 6% 05/21/02 99.5489 6.7500

70 Brazil par B 6% 01/21/19 107.3466 10.4000

76 NTT 6% 05/16/02 100.3478 6.7300

82 Kyushu Elec 7% 05/16/07 100.3750 7.2200

89 Brazil Chant S.L. 4% 04/15/14 83.9455 5.3600

94 Ecuador FRN A 6% 03/31/20 87.5068 8.9300

of a Revival?

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to 54 percent from the current 40 percent, and if, as expected, additional bonds are sold over the coming months, the holding in Allianz could be reduced to 52 percent.

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Gold Issue: Confusion In Germany

Waigel Defends Plan, But Issing Is Wary

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
BONN — Finance Minister Theo Waigel defended his plan to revalue the Bundesbank's gold and foreign-exchange reserves but said it would not be necessary to help Bonn qualify for Europe's single currency.

German Union Pushes a Limit

IG Metall Seeks 32-Hour Week

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — German workers, who already put in fewer hours on average than full-time employees in most of the industrial world, again were leading the movement to cut back working time when international metalworker trade unions convened Sunday in the United States.



A German steelworker listening to union speeches.

If anything, the European trend is toward more flexible arrangements that allow workers to stay on longer when orders are heavy, she said. Unions in Eastern Germany agreed last week to loosen the terms of national contracts to allow individual companies more leeway if it would help them compete.

Dai-Ichi Faces Charges In Scandal, Reports Say

Some Say Tokyo Is Covering Up for Itself

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — The Finance Ministry is preparing to take unprecedented criminal action against a leading bank over a loan scandal, in a move seen by some as an attempt to draw a veil over its own negligence, reports said Sunday.

CYBERSCAPE

The Key to the Next Big Application: What Do Internet Users Actually Want?

By Paul Floren
International Herald Tribune
PARIS — Anyone looking for the Next Big Thing on the Internet should look at electronic commerce — sales of products from flowers to cars, financial services and business-to-business services.

GM Strikers Voting on Labor Pact

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
DETROIT — Workers at General Motors Corp.'s Oklahoma City plant were to vote Sunday on an agreement to settle a seven-week strike, representatives of the company and the United Auto Workers union said Sunday.

CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates	May 23
Australian dollar	1.3625
British pound	1.6375
Canadian dollar	0.7125
French franc	6.5596
German mark	1.3663
Italian lira	2.3636
Japanese yen	136.00
Swiss franc	1.4833
U.S. dollar	1.0000

EXOR GROUP

Registered Office: Luxembourg - 2, Boulevard Royal
R.C. Luxembourg B-6734
Our Shareholders are invited to attend on Wednesday, June 4, 1997 at 11.00 a.m. in Luxembourg at 69, route d'Esch, the Annual Shareholders' General Meeting with the following agenda:

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Speedmaster Automatic
Day-Date, AM/PM
OMEGA — Swiss made since 1848.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bribery Pact Is Ready for OECD Vote

Payoffs for Contracts Would Be Forbidden

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was to ratify Monday an agreement by the world's largest industrialized nations to outlaw the bribery of foreign officials by the end of next year.

The agreement, reached Friday after two years of negotiations, represented a major victory for U.S. businesses that have long complained that the anti-corruption law passed by Congress two decades ago put them at a disadvantage around the world.

The pact would be the first global accord making it a crime to bribe foreign officials to obtain the multibillion-dollar contracts that have become the focus of increasingly cutthroat competition among multinational corporations and governments.

France, Germany and Japan have historically been the most reluctant to agree to such laws; in Germany and Canada, companies have even been allowed to take tax deductions for foreign bribes simply by listing them as a cost of doing business.

The Clinton administration has made forging an anti-bribery agreement a high priority. Administration officials said Friday that they had no illusions that the corruption accord alone would put a huge dent in the multibillion-dollar international bribery business.

Two of the newest member countries of the OECD — South Korea and Mexico — are regarded as being among the more corrupt nations where U.S. companies do business. And the agreement does not include countries outside the 29-nation OECD, some of which are known for a business culture where a willingness to enrich local and national officials is often considered the price of entry.

Nonetheless, Commerce Secretary William Daley said Friday that the agreement was "a major step forward in curbing international bribery."

Under the accord, each of the nations in the OECD has until next April to introduce legislation making foreign bribery a crime. The laws must be passed by the end of 1998, and the OECD nations are committed to opening negotiations for an international treaty to deal with bribery. France and Germany pushed for such a convention so that they would not be placed at a disadvantage by other nations that approved less stringent anti-corruption statutes.

The agreement sets out criteria for the national legislation — some of it similar to the 1977 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in the United States — but it does not mandate specific wording. Some nations may thus treat bribery as a far more serious offense than others.

The Gall to Build a Mall in Japan

Despite Official Rejection, U.S. Developer Presses On With Project

By Sandra Sugawara
Washington Post Service

MORIYA, Japan — On one side of the table sat the Japanese bureaucrats. On the other side sat the representatives of American Malls International, the company owned by the Washington developer Herbert Miller. The meeting was tense and the words solemn.

"It will be very difficult to build the mall in Moriya — perhaps you should look for another site," an Agriculture Ministry official, Noriaki Baraki, said resolutely at the Feb. 28 meeting, one of the participants recalled.

In Japan, direct confrontation is considered distasteful, and subtle communications are preferred. Another Agriculture Ministry official, Toshihiko Takemoto, recalled that Mr. Baraki's words were meant to tell the developer that his proposed project was dead on arrival.

But the Americans did not panic. In fact, the mall company did not even realize it was being told, in an indirect Japanese way, to throw in the towel.

Mr. Miller wants to build eight to 10 malls throughout Japan, bigger and glitzier than anything Japan has ever seen. In the past, Japanese public and bureaucratic opposition to such projects has made them impossible. But Mr.

Miller argues that deregulation and an eagerness among Japanese business executives to learn new ways to do things make this an ideal time to strike.

Sources familiar with the project say Mr. Miller has received surprising support from large retailers, local officials, newspapers and some national government officials, who will have influence over the fate of the project. But because the land in question is zoned as farmland, the Agriculture Ministry's opposition is a major problem.

The mall builder's run-in with the ministry illustrates that change comes slowly here, and that those at the forefront of change can face formidable difficulties. But if Mr. Miller succeeds, it may show that the only way to change the unspoken rules is to break them. Mr. Miller has proceeded as far as he has because he apparently did not understand, or chose to ignore, the unspoken rules of the game.

"We took the meeting at face value, the way it was represented to us, as an informational meeting," said John Diefenbach, the mall company's vice president and general manager in Japan. "We thought they were just giving us a preliminary take on it."

He noted that his company had not even submitted a proposal. It

was still trying to determine if there was enough local support among landowners to proceed.

"After the meeting, he said, 'Our mind-set was, 'This is the problem. How do you solve it?' which is a normal Western problem-solving process. We didn't really give it that much thought."

This Western mind-set, however, baffled and incensed the Agriculture Ministry. Realizing that its indirect approach had been wasted on brash American executives, the Agriculture Ministry unleashed what it apparently hoped would be lethal force: It held a news conference to announce it was killing the proposed mall project.

It summoned the U.S. agriculture attaché to drive home the point. It advised local opponents to circulate petitions against the project. It advertised its opposition on its Web site.

And American Malls International's response? It hasn't budged. It still plans to open its first Japanese mall on the Moriya site in three and a half years. Instead of scaling down its 20-person staff in Japan, it is beefing it up and talking to potential investors. The company also plans to create an on-line replica of the planned structure, a "virtual mall," next year to familiarize the

Japanese with the idea of a large entertainment and shopping complex, which would be a first here. The company continues to talk to local landowners.

"We're going to succeed," Mr. Miller said. "I feel very confident about that."

During a recent interview, Mr. Takemoto asked incredulously: "Where do they get such confidence? A Japanese company would have changed the site. They might not have been happy about it, but they would have done it."

Japanese government officials, newspapers and townspeople think they have part of the answer. They often refer to Mr. Miller's "strong political clout" in Washington, and the betting in Japan is that Mr. Miller is counting on President Bill Clinton to cut a behind-the-scenes deal with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to get the mall built.

Mr. Miller laughs when asked about those reports. Although he has been a Democratic fundraiser, he says his confidence is rooted, not in expectations of presidential intervention, but rather in his belief that things are changing in Japan and that his company's timing is right.

Indeed, Mr. Miller says that many Japanese, in government and in private industry, have called him to quietly offer help.

Skepticism Over Japanese Rate Rise Helps Dollar

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Maybe it's just whistling in the wind, but many leading analysts just do not believe that Japan is about to raise its official interest rates from their current record lows — and if they don't, the dollar is likely to recover.

Unless there is a clear acceleration of Japanese growth, said Ravi Bulchandani of Morgan Stanley & Co. in London, the dollar should again approach 125 yen.

Avinash Persaud at J.P. Morgan & Co. agreed, calling it "premature" to conclude that the yen-dollar exchange rate has stabilized.

If anything, analysts at Tokyo-Mitsubishi International in London say, the recent strength of the yen has lowered the break-even rate at which Japanese investors can afford to buy U.S. bonds, meaning that the capital outflow from Japan should increase.

The dollar ended last week at 115.55 yen, virtually unchanged from a week earlier, but down 9 percent from its five-year high of 127.50 yen set at the start of the month.

Even though the difference between long-term Japanese and U.S. interest rates has narrowed in recent weeks — from 4.6

percentage points to 3.9 percentage points in favor of dollars, as Japanese rates have risen and U.S. rates have fallen — the ability to buy more dollars for yen has more than outweighed the narrowed spread on interest rates to lower the break-even cost for Japanese investors.

Tokyo-Mitsubishi estimated that the dollar's value in 10 years would need to be 78.63 yen for

the higher income on dollar bonds to equal the benefit of having been invested in yen. A month ago, when 126.57 yen were needed to buy one dollar, the break-even rate was 80.50 yen. "We expect a significant increase in investment outflows from Japan," a Tokyo-Mitsubishi official said.

In Mr. Persaud's view, the dollar will be carried higher by the "scissors effect" of changing estimates on interest rates as it becomes clear that U.S. interest rates will rise further and that Japanese and German rates will not rise as soon as has been anticipated.

Although the dollar sagged against both the yen and the Deutsche mark over disappointment that the Federal Reserve Board left U.S. interest rates unchanged last week, it is still widely assumed that the Fed will lift rates because of increased economic growth and that this will give the dollar a final rally before rising interest rates in Japan and in Europe begin to compete late in the year.

Meanwhile, traders are awaiting Friday's revision of the first-quarter U.S. gross domestic product. The original report showed that the economy grew at a torrid 5.6 percent annual rate. The revised figure may be even higher, given the smaller-than-expected U.S. trade deficit, traders said.

Asians Seek Currency Stability

Reuters

BANGKOK — Top officials from nine Asian central banks have agreed to strengthen cooperation to maintain the stability of regional currencies, a Bank of Thailand official said Sunday.

"After exchanging views on the recent volatility in the foreign exchange markets, we jointly agreed to strengthen our cooperation to maintain the stability of currencies in the region," the Thai central banker said.

Separately, the Bank of Thailand said that the top Asian monetary officials had gathered here as part of a regular session of the Executives' Meeting of East Asia and Pacific Central Banks. The meeting, which was held without publicity, included senior central bankers and top monetary officials from Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, South Korea, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong and Thailand, the official said.

The bank was the subject of a massive attack for two days earlier this month by speculators who were worried about Thailand's high current account deficit, economic woes and rumors of an impending cabinet realignment.

New York Notebook

Bond Broker Banks on Wholesale Turnaround

International Herald Tribune

Cantor Fitzgerald LP is primarily known as a dealer-to-dealer broker of government bonds, but Howard Lutnick, the firm's president, is thinking bigger.

Mr. Lutnick plans to carve niches in any big market that has wholesale players, and he says he does not think that the Internet is going to cut out all the middlemen — although he does think technology will create new wholesale markets.

Cantor Fitzgerald's role is to broker deals among the "biggest players," such as Deutsche Bank AG and Merrill Lynch & Co. Although these heavyweights can, and sometimes do, trade among themselves, a broker is often useful to preserve anonymity.

If it becomes known that a big Wall Street investment house wants to sell several billion dollars' worth of bonds, potential buyers would be likely to lower their bid prices from what they were willing to pay before that news came out.

Dealer-to-dealer brokers, therefore, are the "glue between the wallpaper and the wall," Mr. Lutnick says. He sees his firm's role as one of

getting between wholesale buyers and sellers, taking an infinitesimal commission for arranging deals in which neither the goods nor the creditworthiness of the principals needs to be verified.

He says wholesale markets will expand because of technological advances, globalization and deregulation.

As an example, he cites electricity, which, like government debt, is a large but homogenous market. As distribution and generation are increasingly separated, a wholesale market in power is likely to develop. One idea has been that consumers and producers would be able to use the Internet to create a market.

But power generators will not want to have to verify the creditworthiness of every consumer, he said, nor will customers be able to ascertain that an electric company can really deliver. Thus, dealers, perhaps today's retail brokerage houses, will negotiate with generators to create vast pools of energy.

On the other side, credit card issuers, local telephone companies and other con-

cerns that regularly deal with consumers will offer electricity to their clients. Making a market between the two classes of professionals will be brokers — such as Cantor Fitzgerald.

Besides financial products and utilities, Mr. Lutnick suggested that diamonds could become a market. It will take some technological advances, however: Diamonds can be classified in the same way bonds are rated, but so far there is no way to "finger-print" specific gems, he said, so it is impossible to verify that a stone is the same one a seller claims it is.

VEBA Looks to U.S.

The forces that are shaking up the once-staid utility industry have companies scrambling to develop 21st-century strategies. A utility that is moving on several fronts is VEBA AG, one of the five largest listed companies in Germany.

VEBA began as an electric utility and has branched out into several related fields, such as chemicals, commod-

ities trading and telecommunications. The company was one of the first in Germany to adopt U.S.-style accounting standards, and it is planning to list American depositary receipts for its shares on the New York Stock Exchange in October.

Ulrich Hartmann, the VEBA chairman, wants an American partner in telecommunications to take the place of Cable & Wireless PLC, which dropped out of an alliance to challenge Deutsche Telekom in Germany. Currently, VEBA has a venture, called o.tel.o, with RWE AG, another big German utility, and 20 percent is being reserved for a foreign telecommunications company.

Mr. Hartmann said VEBA was negotiating with several U.S. concerns, including GTE Corp., SBC Communications Inc. and BellSouth Corp. He said he preferred a U.S. partner to tap into American technical and marketing expertise.

Unlike many conglomerates, which prefer not to raise their Wall Street profiles for fear of attracting a corporate raider, VEBA is courting U.S.

institutional investors. It is only "poorly managed conglomerates" that have to fear break-ups, he said.

ABN Defies Raiders

ABN-AMRO Holding NV is another international company courting U.S. investors. It sold \$259 million of American depositary receipts Wednesday in its debut on the New York Stock Exchange.

Corporate raiders, however, could buy all the ABN shares they wanted, but they would not get control of the international banking company, the world's 14th-largest in terms of 1995 assets.

A foundation-like entity called Stichting Administratiekantoor ABN AMRO Holding controls a majority of the company's votes through a class of preference shares.

Shareholders cannot vote to oust management, a power reserved to the self-perpetuating supervisory board, over which shareholders have little influence. They can contest but cannot veto appointments to this body.

— Mitchell Martin

SHORT COVER

Bonn Confident on Fighter Funds

BONN (Reuters) — Defense Minister Volker Ruehe said Sunday he was confident that Bonn, under pressure to tighten budgets and qualify for European monetary union, would find the funds needed to buy 180 Eurofighter jets to modernize its air force.

Mr. Ruehe said he welcomed proposals by Finance Minister Theo Waigel to use funds from the Airbus Industrie aircraft consortium to help fund the planned 23 billion Deutsche mark (\$13.6 billion) purchase.

Mr. Waigel told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung that the government could use 200 million DM a year in reimbursements from Airbus to pay for the jets.

Dow Jones Libel Damages Are Cut

HOUSTON (Bloomberg) — A federal judge has set aside most of a record-setting \$222.7 million libel verdict against Dow Jones & Co., although the publisher of The Wall Street Journal still must pay more than \$22.7 million.

U.S. District Judge Ewing Werlein Jr. threw out \$200 million in punitive damages a jury had ordered Dow Jones to pay MMAR Group Inc. in the lawsuit over an inaccurate article published in 1993. But in his ruling late Friday, Judge Werlein left in place \$22.7 million in compensatory damages plus interest and legal costs. He also ordered the author of the article, Laura Jerski, to pay \$20,000 in punitive damages.

Austria Denies Report on Taxes

VIENNA (Reuters) — Revenue for Austria's budget for 1998 and 1999 will fall short by 20 billion schillings (\$1.68 billion), Finance Minister Rudolf Edlinger said, but he added that there was no plan to raise taxes on oil and tobacco to cover the gap.

In an interview with the daily Kurier published Sunday, Mr. Edlinger said a Saturday newspaper report that he was considering raising taxes on oil and tobacco to help fill the deficit in the next budget was incorrect.

PepsiCo Pulls Out of South Africa

NEW YORK (Combined Dispatches) — The PepsiCo Inc. franchise bottler in South Africa, New Age Beverages, has ceased operations.

PepsiCo, which owned 25 percent of the company, said Friday the bottler had filed for voluntary liquidation in a Johannesburg court and had already ceased operations.

PepsiCo also said it would sell its restaurant-supply distribution unit to AmeriServe Food Distribution Inc. The companies did not disclose terms, although analysts estimated a price in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The unit, called PepsiCo Food Systems, distributes \$3.4 billion a year in food, equipment and other supplies, mainly to Pepsi's Pizza Hut, KFC and Taco Bell restaurant chains. (NYT, Bloomberg)

FIDELITY FRONTIER FUND

Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable
Kansallis House, Place de l'Étoile,
B.P. 2174, L-1021 Luxembourg
R.C. No B 20494
(in liquidation)
(the "Company")

Pursuant to a decision of the Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders held on the 23rd May, 1997 the liquidation of Fidelity Frontier Fund has been closed.

Liquidation proceeds not collected by the shareholders have been transferred to the Caisse des Consignations to be held for the benefit of the persons entitled thereto.

The records of the Company are deposited at the registered office of the Company for a period of 5 years.

The liquidator

Fidelity Investments

L'Aéroport Nice - Côte d'Azur

lance un appel à candidatures visant à l'attribution d'autorisations d'occupation temporaire du domaine public aéronautique d'une durée de 5 ans, pour l'exploitation d'une activité de location de véhicules automobiles sans chauffeur.

Eu égard aux contraintes d'espace particulières à l'aéroport Nice Côte d'Azur, 6 autorisations seront attribuées.

Les candidats intéressés doivent envoyer une demande d'admission par lettre recommandée avec accusé de réception à l'adresse suivante :

CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE ET D'INDUSTRIE NICE COTE D'AZUR
AÉROPORT NICE - COTE D'AZUR
Direction de l'Exploitation
Consultation « location de véhicules »
06281 NICE CEDEX 3

La demande sera placée sous double enveloppe, l'enveloppe intérieure portant la mention « Offre de candidature pour l'exploitation d'une activité de location de véhicules ».

Les candidats devront fournir avec leur demande :

- les statuts sociaux
- un extrait d'immatriculation Registre Commerce et des Sociétés
- les 3 derniers bilans
- les 3 derniers comptes de résultat
- le CV des mandataires sociaux
- le dernier rapport d'activité
- toutes pièces susceptibles d'établir leur compétence.

Au plus 10 candidats seront admis à déposer une offre sur la base des critères suivants :

- Expérience Internationale
- Système de Réserve
- Qualité du Service
- Assise Financière
- Adaptation à l'exploitation de l'Aéroport.

La date limite de réception des candidatures est fixée au Vendredi 13 juin 1997.

Worldwide coverage

via the World's Daily Newspaper

Herald Tribune

Comprehensive yet concise, informed yet impartial, the affairs of the world unfold on the pages of the World's Daily Newspaper.

Figures as of close
of trading Friday, May 23

The image displays a highly degraded and noisy scan of a document page. The content is organized into multiple vertical columns, characteristic of a financial ledger or a detailed report. The text within these columns is mostly illegible due to the extreme contrast and noise. However, some fragments of text are visible, including what appears to be a header at the top left: "Figures as of close of trading Friday, May 23". The rest of the page is filled with dense, repetitive patterns of characters and symbols, suggesting a large volume of data being presented in a structured format.

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NASDAQ NATIONAL

DEATH THREAT MENACE



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FILE **THAT SCRAMBLED WORDS**
By **ALAN ARONSON** and **JOHN H. HARRIS**

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SPORTS

Eindhoven Clinches Dutch Title

Parma Tightens Grip on Champions League Berth

PSV Eindhoven won the Dutch title for the 14th time Sunday when it beat Willem II Tilburg 3-1.

With one game to go, PSV has an unassailable four-point lead over Feyenoord, which beat Heerenveen 4-2.

Eindhoven coach Dick Advocaat, coach of the Dutch national team at the 1994 World Cup finals, clearly felt the tension and was dismissed from the bench for shouting at referee Dick Jol halfway through the first half.

Advocaat, who had never previously won the championship either as player or coach, watched the rest of the match from the stands.

Luc Nilis, the Dutch league's top scorer this season, put PSV in front in the 22d minute with his 21st goal of the season.

Three minutes later, Willem II's Finnish striker Joonas Kolka saw goal-keeper Ronald Waterreus standing way off his goal line and equalized with a lob.

However, strikes from Wim Jonk in the 36th minute and De Bilde from a Boudewijn Zenden cross two minutes later gave PSV a two-goal cushion.

Ronald Koeman ended his long career with a goal in Feyenoord's victory that ensured the club would finish second and play in next season's European Cup.

Twente Enschede drew 1-1 at home to NEC Nijmegen to join Ajax and Vitesse Arnhem in the UEFA Cup.

ITALY The league title is already out of reach, safe in Juventus's hands, but Parma tightened its grip on second place Sunday, which brings with it a Champions League berth, when it beat Bologna 1-0.

Juve had clinched its record 24th championship with a 1-1 draw at Atalanta of Bergamo on Friday night. The game was moved forward to allow Juventus more time to prepare for the European Cup final against Borussia Dortmund in Munich on Wednesday.

Parma's victory kept it two points ahead of Internazionale of Milan, a 3-2 winner over Napoli, with one round of games to go.

Paul Ince scored for both teams Sunday in Inter's first outing since losing the UEFA Cup final on penalty kicks Wednesday and losing its coach, Roy Hodgson, two days later.

Ince scored an own-goal in the 31st minute. He redeemed himself by equalizing in the 50th minute. After Inter went ahead 2-1, Ince preserved the lead by chipping a Napoli shot off the line. Napoli players protested that the Englishman had used his hand.

French striker Youri Djorkaeff then made it 3-1 for Inter, before Napoli pulled a goal back in the 90th minute.

In another exciting game, Sampdoria of Genoa made sure it will have one of Italy's four entries in the UEFA Cup by beating host Cagliari 4-3 on substitute Vincenzo Iacopino's last-minute goal.

Cosch Sven Goran Eriksson will leave Samp at the end of the season, but his new team, Lazio of Rome, also clinched a UEFA berth. Lazio beat Verona 4-1 as Giuseppe Signori scored twice.

GERMANY Bayern Munich ended a season of squabbling and scandals by clinching a record 14th German league title Sunday.

First-half headed goals from Christian Ziege and Mehmet Scholl and second-half strikes by Ruggiero Rizzitelli and

Soccer Roundup

Marcel Witeczek gave the Bavarians a 4-2 victory over VfB Stuttgart in the penultimate round of matches.

The victory gave Bayern an unassailable four-point lead over Bayer Leverkusen, which was crushed 4-0 at Cologne.

Bayern fell behind in the 17th minute to a goal by Danny Schwarz, but after Stuttgart's Krasimir Balakov was sent off in the 23d minute for arguing with the referee, the game swung to Bayern.

Germany's richest club has been nicknamed "Hollywood City" this season.

Juergen Klinsmann had been embroiled in a public feud with club captain Lothar Matthaus and is leaving Bayern to join Sampdoria, saying he was fed up with the atmosphere at a club.

Franz Beckenbauer, the chairman, has been critical of a team of highly paid internationals who held crisis meetings after most losses.

Afterward Klinsmann said: "This is the thing you dream about doing as a small boy. I'm going to enjoy it for a few days. It is a bit of a happy end. But I don't regret leaving. There are so many different philosophies in football. And mine did not fit in here."

Even though it lost, Leverkusen will finish second and play in the European Cup next season.

SPAIN Barcelona kept alive its league title hopes thanks to a piece of opportunism by Ronaldo in the last minute that gave it a 1-0 victory over Deportivo Coruna on Saturday.

The victory ensured that Barcelona would finish at least second in the Spanish League and gain a place in next season's European Cup.

The game looked likely to end goalless until Ronaldo picked himself up from a heavy challenge and pounced on a loose ball to shoot past Deportivo goalkeeper Jacques Songo'o.

FRANCE Vincent Guerin struck an 89th-minute winner to give Paris St. Germain a 2-1 home victory over Strasbourg on Saturday, second place in the French league and with it a place in the European Cup next season.

PSG fell behind to a 49th-minute goal by Olivier Dacourt before equalizing in the 63d minute when defender Paul Le Guen blasted in a shot after a free kick. PSG started the final round of games

level on points with second-place Nantes, but behind on goal difference. Nantes was playing at Monaco, the champion. As time ran out, both games were tied 1-1.

But the luck that had carried Nantes through a 30-match unbeaten run ended with Guerin's goal in Paris and a goal disallowed in a close offside decision in the principle that would have put the visitors out front.

In the end, with Nantes pushing everyone into attack, including teenage goalkeeper Mickael Landreau, Monaco's Brazilian striker Anderson broke away in injury time to give Monaco, unbeaten at home in the league, a 2-1 victory.

It was the first time that Landreau, who made his debut in October had been on the losing side in 29 first division games.

Belgium Lierse clinched its first league title since 1960 Sunday with a 3-0 victory at Standard Liege.

Lierse finished the season two points ahead of last season's champion, Club Brugge.

Lierse, based in Lier, a northern Belgian town of 33,000 inhabitants, sealed the title for the fourth time in its history with its first away victory over Standard Liege in 37 years.

The match was halted when Standard fans spilled on to the pitch eight minutes from time and refused to return to the stands. It was resumed nearly half an hour later.

UKRAINE Shakhtar Donetsk seized on a defensive error by Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk to snatch the Ukrainian Cup 1-0 on Sunday. Serhiy Atelkin intercepted a sloppy defensive pass on the edge of the Dnipro box in the 37th minute.

INTERNATIONAL Paul Gascoigne is doubtful for England's World Cup qualifier against Poland next week after suffering a calf injury in the last minute of his country's 2-1 friendly victory over South Africa on Saturday.

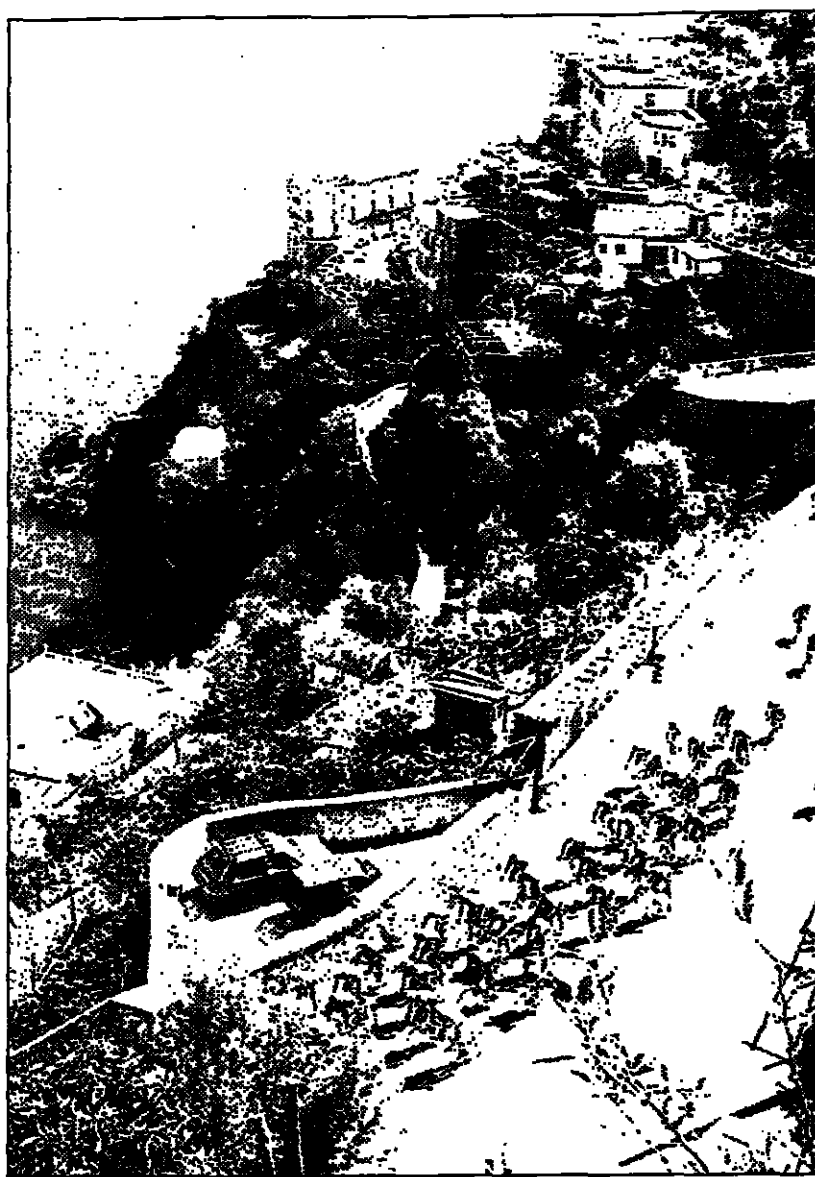
Gascoigne, playing his first international for seven months, failed to finish the match after a rash tackle by substitute Linda Buthelesi.

Gascoigne had his best match for England since last summer's European Championships and went close to scoring with a second-half free kick. He also played some penetrating long passes through to his forwards and orchestrated the 75th minute goal that Ian Wright scored to clinch England's victory.

Robert Lee had put England ahead after 20 minutes. Phil Masinga headed in the equalizer in the 43d minute.

SCOTLAND Kilmarnock won the Scottish Cup for the first time since 1929 with a 1-0 victory over Falkirk in a tense final at Ibrox in Glasgow on Saturday.

A 21st minute close-range goal from Paul Wright, who was troubled by a gashed knee in the lead-up to the final, proved decisive. It was only the seventh Scottish final since 1957 not to include either Rangers or Celtic.



Giro d'Italia competitors cycling down the Tyrrhenian Sea coast Sunday.

Konyshov Outsprints Piccoli

In 9th Stage of Giro d'Italia

CASTROVILLARI, Italy — Dmitri Konyshov gained another Russian victory in the Giro d'Italia on Sunday when he won the sprint at the end of the ninth stage.

Konyshov, who rides for the Roslotto team, has won the royal blue of best intermediate sprinter since the Giro began in Venice. His finishing power was too much for Mariano Piccoli of Brescialat at the end of the 232-kilometer (145-mile) stage from Cava de' Tirreni.

Piccoli, wearing the green jersey of best climber, drove hard for the line in the mass finish, riding alone in the right-hand gutter, but Konyshov, on the far side of the road, was too fast.

It was the third Russian stage victory following those of race leader Pavel Tonkov in a time trial and on the Terminillo mountain last Wednesday.

Tonkov, who rides for the Saeco team, maintained his overall lead of 41 seconds over Luc Leblanc.

Ivan Gotti and Roberto Petito, two Italians with Saeco, lie third and fourth overall. Petito was third in Sunday's stage, gaining a four-second bonus. He trails Gotti by only two seconds.

Marco Pantani, one of the top climbers, dropped out of the race and is expected to be out of action for 10 days after Saturday's high-speed crash caused by a wayward cat. Further checks revealed a tear in his left thigh muscle and internal bleeding.

Pantani faces up 10 days of treatment with Dr. Flavio Terragnoli, who took care of him when he shattered his left shin in 1995.

Another victim of that spill, the Swiss champion Armin Meier, fractured his heel and is out for the season.

SCOREBOARD

AUTOMOBILING

SPANISH GRAND PRIX

SUNDAY, IN BARCELONA, 4 laps, 302.469 km. In 1 h. 38 m. 35.896 s. (average speed 200.514 km/h).

1. Villeneuve, Canada, Williams, 64 laps.
2. Pons, France, Prost of S.B.M.
3. Alesi, France, Benetton 12/534
4. Schumacher, Germany, Ferrari 17/999
5. Herbert, Britain, Sauber 37/986
6. Coulthard, Britain, McLaren 39/944
7. Hill, Britain, Williams 48/785
8. Frentzen, Germany, Williams 1:04/139
9. F. Schumacher, Germany, Ferrari 1:04/139
10. Berger, Austria, Benetton 1:05/670

DRIVERS' STANDINGS: 1. Villeneuve 30 points; 2. Schumacher 27; 3. Olivier Panis 15; 4. Eddie Irvine, Britain, Ferrari 14; 5. David Coulthard, Britain, McLaren 11; 6. Frentzen, Germany, 10; 7. Berger, Germany, 10; 8. Jean Alesi, France, 10; 9. Rubens Barrichello, Brazil, Stewart 6.

CONSTRUCTORS' STANDINGS: 1. Ferrari 41 points; 2. Williams 40; 3. McLaren 21; 4. Benetton 17; 5. Prost 15; 6. Jordan 7; 7. Agip, Stewart 7; 8. Sauber 6; 9. Tyrrell 2.

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

W L Pct GB

New York 21 14 .600 0

Toronto 20 15 .571 1

Boston 19 16 .543 2

Seattle 18 17 .514 3

Central Division

Cleveland 24 11 .686 0

Chicago 21 14 .600 3

Minnesota 20 15 .571 4

West Division

Texas 26 10 .726 0

Los Angeles 25 11 .697 1

Seattle 25 11 .697 1

Oakland 19 17 .524 7

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

W L Pct GB

Atlanta 23 14 .622 0

Florida 22 15 .595 1

Montreal 20 17 .543 3

Philadelphia 19 18 .514 4

Central Division

Houston 25 12 .676 0

Pittsburgh 23 14 .622 1

St. Louis 22 15 .595 2

Chicago 20 17 .543 3

West Division

San Diego 27 10 .731 0

Colorado 25 12 .676 1

Los Angeles 24 13 .649 2

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Los Angeles

SPORTS

Woosnam Clings to Slim Lead in British Championship

WENTWORTH, England — In a dramatic finish to the 1997 British Open, Paul Lawrie held off a late charge by Colin Montgomerie to win the championship by a slim margin.

Lawrie, who led the tournament for much of the week, finished with a 67 to clinch the title. Montgomerie, who had been in contention, finished with a 68.

The two were tied at 144 after the third round. Lawrie's fourth round of 67 was a career best, while Montgomerie's 68 was a season-high.

Lawrie's victory was a surprise, as he had not been considered a favorite to win. Montgomerie, on the other hand, was widely expected to win.

The tournament was held at the Wentworth Club, which has hosted the British Open several times in the past.

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So, Who Was Coddled? Jordan Shows the Heat

By Michael Wilbon

Washington Post Service

MIAMI — You would think that by now Pat Riley has been too smart for too long to get into a personal duel with Michael Jordan in the playoffs. Here's the first, and the only Jordan Rule that matters: Shut your mouth when it comes to Michael Jordan. Criticizing him is a strategy that doesn't work.

Jordan doesn't much like Riley. And Riley is a guy who can turn "Good morning, Mike" into an unforgetable insult. So when Riley, the Great Motivator, complained publicly Friday that Jordan was benefiting from too much help from the refs, when he said he was going to write a letter to the NBA and send a tape of Game 2 as evidence that Jordan was being coddled, well, you knew it wasn't going to turn out too well for the coach of the Heat.

As sure as the sun rises in the east, Jordan was going to view this as a personal affront and torch Riley, and that's exactly what happened. The Bulls sliced and diced the Heat 100 different ways Saturday in Game 3, but Jordan landed the haymakers that effectively knocked out Riley's team before halftime.

The critical numbers: 34 points, 14 for 25 from the field, 5 for 5 from the line, 8 rebounds, great defense and a 3-0 lead for Chicago in this Eastern Conference final series.

The next time Riley gets into a mood to write somebody, he should drop a note to his own team to cover his back. Here are some stats that explain how sorry Miami was Saturday: Randy Brown, Chicago's 10th man, came off the bench and in 14 minutes scored more field goals (four) than Alonzo Mourning and Tim Hardaway combined. Mourning had one, Hardaway had two. Totally pitiful.

If Miami hadn't scored a basket with 1.8 seconds left, the Heat would have left in with the fewest field goal

attempts in NBA playoff history. Chicago's 12th man, Jud Buechler, had three times as many field goals as Mourning. At the end of three quarters, Jordan and Scottie Pippen had outscored the entire Miami team, 51-49.

If the Bulls, who had been playing at about 50 percent efficiency, were sleeping dogs, Riley should have just let them lie. But no. After making his announcement about the Game 2 tape, Riley said, "We've got to beat not only a great Bulls team but the injustice of what comes with championship teams."

Here's what Jordan heard from all that: "Mike can't beat you anymore without the help from the refs."

Asked Saturday if his words had inspired Jordan to go nuts, Riley said, "I think he sort of takes that stuff with a grain of salt."

Well, no. He takes it like you threatened his family.

About an hour before the game Jordan told reporters, "I wish he would've played me in his early days. I probably would have scored 100 points on him — if he got off the bench." Then, Jordan acted as if he might score 100 with Riley on the bench as coach. Jordan reached 20 early in the second quarter, abusing any and everybody in a Miami uniform.

And the fact that Pippen, who scored 21 points, was nearly as effective made it impossible for the Miami defense to load up on Jordan.

If Jordan had not been so bent on getting Toni Kukoc and Steve Kerr out of their slumps, he would have gone for 50-plus. When Jackson told Jordan enough was enough midway through the fourth quarter, Jordan appeared to ask for a few more minutes. He'd scored 34 and barely worked up a good sweat.

Asked afterward if he was "aware" of Riley's complaint, Jordan's eyebrow went straight north and he said, "Oh yeah, I was aware" and called Riley's words "his attempt to

manipulate the referees."

Jordan had incentive enough after scoring only four baskets in Game 2.

"We had to redeem ourselves," he said of himself and Pippen.

Did they ever. When Pippen and Jordan play the way they did Saturday, there's nobody out there who can beat the Bulls. Even with Luc Longley and Kerr shooting 0 for 7 and Ron Harper playing just 15 minutes, the Bulls went on the road and beat Miami by 24.

Teams go as far in the playoffs as their stars take them. It was bad enough that Hardaway scored only six points, but even worse that he didn't set up his teammates (two assists). It was bad enough that Mourning had only one field goal, but he grabbed only one offensive rebound — Jordan had three — and did not block a shot all day.

On the other hand, this may just be the start for the Bulls — a feel-good game for Jordan and Pippen, who are set to close this thing out Monday and rest up for Utah or Houston.

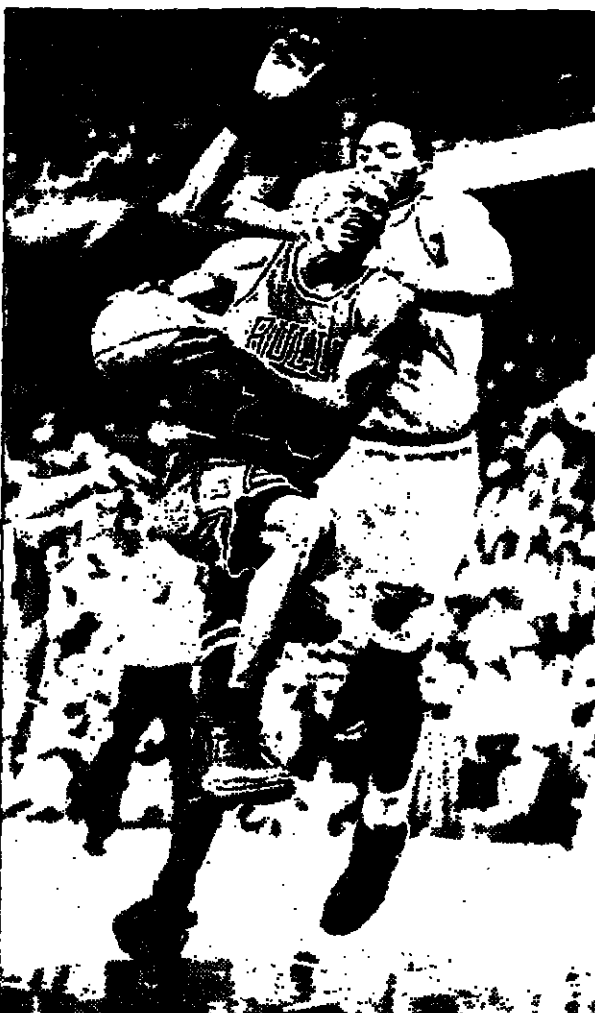
Albert Is Heckled

Marv Albert, the NBC broadcaster, braved a few hecklers and a great deal of media attention to broadcast his first NBA playoff game since his indictment on sex charges. The Associated Press reported from Miami.

"I'm just focusing on the game. I hate to bring all this into it, you know, that's the worse part of it," he said Saturday after his pregame show for Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Albert, 53, is charged with forcible sodomy and assault on a 41-year-old woman. She told police he bit her repeatedly on the back and forced her to perform oral sex in a hotel room.

Fans at the Miami Arena saved their boos for the Bulls, but there were a few fans screaming, "Bite me, Marv!" and "Marv for president!"



The Bulls' Michael Jordan driving past Alonzo Mourning of the Heat in the third quarter at Miami.

Rockets Rebound Against Jazz

Washington Post Service

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets trailed 2-0 to the Utah Jazz in the Western Conference finals but responded in typical fashion. The Rockets won Game 3, 118-100, as Eddie Johnson, a reserve forward, came off the bench to score 31 points.

"It was one of those get-backed-into-a-corner-and-come-out-swinging kind of games. That's the kind of game we like," said Rudy Tomjanovich, Houston's coach.

After spending the first two games complaining about Karl Malone's flops under the basket or John Stockton's picks, Houston concentrated on shooting and rebounding. The Rockets shot 38 and 37 percent in Games 1 and 2, made 12 of 40 3-point attempts and were outrebounded, 105-74. In Game 3, Houston shot 59 percent, made 12 of 25 3-pointers, and controlled the boards, 38-30.

Since 1992-1993, Tomjanovich's first season as coach, the Rockets are 11-2 in games in which they face playoff elimination.

"I just think that's our character. I guess it is just like being a boxer," he said. "The thing that gets to me is, why do we have to get backed into the corner?"

Avalanche Stays Alive With 6-0 Victory

The Associated Press

DENVER — Facing elimination and still feeling the sting of a 6-0 loss two nights earlier, the Colorado Avalanche summoned their best effort of the series.

Claude Lemieux and Joe Sakic each scored two goals, and Colorado peppered Detroit's goaltender, Mike Vernon, for four points in the first

NHL PLAYOFFS

22 minutes as the Avalanche stayed alive in the playoffs with a 6-0 victory Saturday night.

Detroit still leads the Western Conference finals' best-of-seven series, 3-2.

Patrick Roy, who gave up five goals in the loss Thursday night, recorded 32 saves this time for his 11th career playoff shutout.

Sakic also had an assist, and Valeri Kamensky added four assists.

Vernon, who had limited the Avalanche to five goals in the first four games, was replaced by Chris Osgood at 2:23 of the second period after Stephane Yelle's goal had given Colorado a 4-0 lead.

"It's the first time in this series we had any emotion on



Colorado goalie Patrick Roy making a point on his way to stopping Detroit for his third shutout in the playoffs.

our side," said Adam Foote an Avalanche defenseman. Scott Bowman the Red Wings' coach, said, "We didn't go after rebounds." "We didn't shoot high when we could have shot high. We didn't screen. If you don't do those three things, you probably come up with a shutout against you. And that's exactly what happened," he said.

"Nine days ago, when we started this series, if you said we would be up 3-2 and going home for the sixth game, it would have been more than we bargained for," he said.

Lemieux scored the game's first two goals, both on rebounds, and Sakic added another as Colorado took a 3-0 first-period lead.

Early in the game, Kamensky took two shots from

the right circle, the second one deflected by Sakic and rebounding out front to Lemieux, who punched the puck past Vernon at 6:46.

After Roy twice stopped on the Red Wings' Darren McCarty — on a breakaway and on a point-blank shot from rebound — Lemieux scored again. Sandis Ozolins took a shot just inside the blue line that caromed to Lemieux just left of the goal at 11:04. It was Lemieux's 13th goal of the playoffs, which leads the National Hockey League and ties his career high.

Sakic made it 3-0 at 15:34. On a 2-on-1 break with Lemieux, Sakic shot from the left circle between Vernon's legs.

Yelle scored early in the second period on a shot from the right circle after a turnover in the neutral zone.

Osgood made several key stops before Sakic scored his eighth goal of the playoffs, skating across the slot and flicking a wrist shot past Osgood at 10:57. Scott Young put in his own rebound seven minutes later.

Colorado was without its star center, Peter Forsberg, who suffered an injured right thigh in Game 4.

The Power Passes to Lindros as No. 1 Center

By Joe Lapointe

New York Times Service

THE popular notion from the third round of the Stanley Cup playoffs is that a transition of power is taking place, that Eric Lindros of Philadelphia is supplanting Mark Messier of the New York Rangers as the premier power center in the National Hockey League.

It is true that Big 88 has more goals than Messier, leading him 4-1 in this round and by 10-3 for the tournament. True, Lindros delivers more hard body checks than Messier. True, Lindros attracts more defensive coverage than Messier because his shooting and passing skills are more dangerous.

But it is also true that Lindros overtook Messier at least two years ago, maybe even before that, in individual talent if not in charisma and leadership skills. Only because their teams are playing against each other so late in a four-round tournament is the shift so apparent to more people who don't watch the sport on a regular basis.

Lindros underscored the transition Friday night with a game-winning goal on a long backhanded shot during a power play with 6.8 seconds remaining

in Madison Square Garden. The goal gave the Flyers a 3-2 victory in a three-hour thriller and allowed them to take a 3-1 lead in the four-of-seven-game Eastern Conference finals.

In Game 3, Lindros showed his superiority in a symbolic way by out-hustling Messier to a loose puck and shooting it into an empty net to complete a three-goal hat trick.

The presence of Messier, still checked by top opposing defensemen, allows more freedom for Wayne Gretzky, who has had a brilliant postseason, with 10 goals and eight assists. But some of Messier's other skills have deteriorated.

His faceoff dominance isn't the same. He initiates fewer momentum-shifting collisions. He is still capable of rationing his intimidating moments for ideal times. In the previous round, his unpenalized cross-check to the head of Doug Gilmour seemed to demoralize the favored New Jersey Devils.

This and many other unpenalized stick fouls in this tournament demonstrate another growing reality: the need for two referees, instead of one, to police a sport whose participants are growing bigger, faster and smarter while staying as mean as ever.

The winning goal Friday came with

New York's Jeff Beukeboom in the penalty box for cutting the face of John LeClair with a high stick.

That may have been Beukeboom's least intentional foul of the night. Earlier, he broke his stick when clubbing Trent Klatt in the head with an unpenalized cross-check. Then he felled Lindros with an unpenalized cross-check to the back.

Also in this game: a slash by Philadelphia's Eric Desjardins to the right wrist of Gretzky cost Desjardins a two-minute penalty and injured Gretzky. Later, Gretzky retaliated with an unpenalized spear to Desjardins' midsection.

Desjardins' slash came while killing a penalty, the same sort of shot Adam Graves used in the 1992 playoffs to break one of Mario Lemieux's bones.

The stick work is worse in the other series between the Red Wings and the Colorado Avalanche.

Frustrated by Detroit's Igor Larionov, who had scored twice in Game 4, Colorado's Mike Keane put him out of the game with a vicious hack to the back of legs.

This prompted Marc Crawford, the Colorado coach, to leap up on the bench and crow to Detroit's coach, Scotty Bowman, "We got one of your guys!"

High-Flying Orioles Get Rare Victory in Cleveland

The Associated Press

Rafael Palmeiro had three hits, including a three-run homer, and Mike Mussina got a rare victory over the Indians as the Baltimore Orioles won, 8-3, in Cleveland.

The Orioles improved to 31-14, the best record in the American League, and ended Cleveland's season-high six-game winning streak.

Mussina (6-1), who had a 14.81 earned-run average against the Indians last season and

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

was 2-6 in his career against them, had a season-high nine strikeouts in seven innings. Mike Bordick, who was in a 1-for-13 slump and batting .186, was 2-for-4.

Yankees 4, Red Sox 2 In New York, Charlie Hayes, starting for the second straight day after slumping Wade Boggs was benched, hit a two-run homer with one out in the ninth inning, as New York halted a five-game losing streak by beating Boston.

Paul O'Neill walked with one out in the ninth and Hayes hit his third home run.

The Yankees' manager, Joe Torre, had his team skip pregame batting practice in hopes of breaking the club's current hitting funk.

Angels 3, Blue Jays 1 Allen Watson pitched seven shutout innings and Darin Erstad hit an inside-the-park home run as Anaheim won in Toronto.

Watson gave up four singles as the Angels won their fourth in a row.

Rangers 6, Tigers 4 Kent Hill won in his first start since April 30, allowing three runs and four hits in six innings for Texas in Detroit.

Billy Ripken homered and Warren Newson hit a three-run double for the Rangers, who have won 10 of their last 15.

Twins 7, Athletics 4 Ron Coomer drove in three runs for the Twins, all with help from Minneapolis' domed stadium.

His two-run double in the fourth was just a high fly that got lost against the off-white roof, and his run-scoring single in the fifth came after catcher George Williams lost a pop-up foul in the ceiling.

Royals 11, Mariners 5 In Kansas City, Craig Paquette broke out of a slump with two homers, including a sixth-inning grand slam as the Royals ended a seven-game losing streak.

White Sox 8, Brewers 6 In Chicago, Harold Baines singled to break a seventh-inning tie and Albert Belle extended his hitting streak to 19 games with a two-run homer.

In a game delayed twice by rain for a total of 2 hours and 4 minutes, John Jaha led off the seventh with his 10th homer, a drive off Chuck McElroy that made it 6-6. Frank Thomas walked leading off the bottom half, took second on Belle's single and scored on Baines's single.

In National League games:

Astros 7, Rockies 6 Darryl Kile pitched seven strong innings, and Jeff Bagwell and

Craig Biggio each homered Saturday as Houston won in Denver.

Kile (5-2) is 4-0 in his last five games and has an 0.47 ERA during that span. He limited Colorado to just four hits and three walks.

Bagwell, who leads the National League in home runs, hit his 16th of the season — his sixth in eight games — in the first inning.

Cardinals 9, Giants 3 Andy Benes gave up two runs in the first inning, then settled down to strike out 12 as St. Louis won in San Francisco. Benes allowed five hits, and left after seven innings with an 8-2 lead.

Benes, who began the game with only one hit in 11 at-bats this season, helped himself at the plate. He singled twice, scored two runs and also drove in a run with a squeeze bunt. Ray Lankford drove in four runs as the Cardinals won for the second time in eight games.

Mets 9, Phillies 4 In Philadelphia, Darren Daulton ended the game by grounding out with the bases loaded as Philadelphia's ninth-inning rally fell short.

Down 6-1, the Phillies came back in the ninth. Ruben Amaro hit a two-out, two-run single off Rick Tricek, and Mickey Morandini had an RBI single off Greg McMichael, making him 4-for-5.

Bernard Gilkey and Butch Huskey each homered and drove in two runs for the Mets.

Expos 7, Pirates 3 In Montreal, rookie Vladimir Guerrero drove in a season-high four runs and Jeff Juden (5-0) won his 10th straight decision.

Reds 4, Cubs 1 Curtis Goodwin hit a three-run homer in the 12th inning to give Cincinnati a victory over visiting Chicago.

Sammy Sosa's home run gave Chicago a 1-0 lead. In the top of the ninth, he had another homer annulled when umpires reversed themselves and called it foul as he rounded the bases.

Dodgers 10, Braves 3 In Los Angeles, Tom Glavine, making his first start since becoming baseball's highest-paid pitcher with a \$34 million, four-year extension, was roughed up for five first-inning runs.

Ramon Martinez pitched a three-hitter for his first complete game since last Sept. 19. The right-hander struck out eight and walked three while ending Atlanta's seven-game winning streak and the Dodgers' six-game losing streak.

Marlins 9, Padres 7 Edgar Renteria hit a tiebreaking double in a three-run eighth inning as the Florida won in San Diego.

Renteria, who extended his hitting streak to nine games, drove reliever Doug Bochler's pitch into left-center field to score Jeff Conine for a 7-6 lead. Conine had walked to start the inning.

Moises Alou drove in Renteria with a single to put the Marlins ahead, 8-6, and Bobby Bonilla followed with a run-scoring single.

Bochler (0-2), who had not allowed a run in 9 1/2 innings over his last eight appearances, gave up three runs on three hits.

ONE-TO-ONE: CHALLENGE OF THE CHAMPIONS

who is the fastest man on Earth?

On the evening of Sunday June 1, at 22.00 CET, the world will know!

You can see it live and exclusively on Eurosport as DONOVAN BAILEY and MICHAEL JOHNSON meet head to head.

The evening also features some of the other biggest names in the world of athletics in this unique One-to-One Challenge of the Champions

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Herald Tribune SPORTS

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MONDAY, MAY 26, 1997

WORLD ROUNDUP



Darren Gough running in to bowl for England on Sunday.

England Beats Tourists

CRICKET Ben Holloake, who had never set foot inside Lord's Cricket Ground until Sunday, marked his England debut at cricket's headquarters with 63 off 48 balls as Australia lost the one-day series 3-0.

Holloake, born in Australia but educated in England, Alec Stewart, who hit 79, and John Crawley, with 52, spurred England to victory with one over to spare in the final international. England won all three games by six wickets.

Australia, put in to bat, scored 269 all out in 49.2 of their 50 overs, thanks mainly to a fluent 95 from Mark Waugh. (Reuters)

Bubka to Miss Challenge

ATHLETICS Sergei Bubka, the world record-holder in the pole vault, has withdrawn from the One-on-One Challenge of Champions in Toronto because of an injury. Bubka was supposed to compete against Okkert Brits as part of the undercard of the Michael Johnson-Donovan Bailey 150-meter match race at the Skydome next Sunday. (AP)

Costa Beats Barrage

TENNIS Albert Costa withstood a barrage of aces from Mark Philippoussis on Sunday to lead Spain to a 3-0 victory over Australia in the World Team Cup final in Dusseldorf.

Felix Mantilla had given Spain a 1-0 lead with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Mark Woodforde. Philippoussis won the first set in emphatic fashion, blasting a world record 229-kilometer per hour (142 miles per hour) ace past Costa. The Spaniard came back to take the next two sets on the breaks, twice fighting off match points.

Steffi Graf completed her short build-up to the defense of her French Open crown by winning in Strasbourg. She beat the Croatian youngster Mirjana Lucic 6-2, 7-5 in Saturday's final.

• Jana Novotna beat Monica Seles, 7-5, 6-1, Saturday in the final of the Madrid Open. (Reuters)

British Ignored Threats

HORSE RACING Britain allowed the rescheduled Grand National steeplechase to go ahead last month in the presence of then-Prime Minister John Major and 20,000 others despite IRA bomb warnings, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Police partially confirmed the report Sunday. (Reuters)

O'Malley Protects Staff

BASEBALL Peter O'Malley, the owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, is protecting the club's front-office staff from being arbitrarily fired after a possible sale to Rupert Murdoch by providing personal-service contracts. It is the first time most of the employees have had a contract. (AP)

In a Strange Year, It's Anybody's French Open

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Step right up. Don't be shy. It's never been a better year for betting on the French Open.

The favorites all seem to be retiring from tennis, tiring of tennis, or recovering from tennis injuries. Step right up. No such thing as a silly gamble this year. Today's long-shot could be tomorrow's champion. Marcelo Rios. Amanda Coetzer, they could make you rich before you know the first thing about them. Hurry, hurry, tournament starts Monday. Who's going to put their money on the most unpredictable French Open in years?

"I'll put \$10 on Pete Sampras to win the French Open."

Ten dollars — in this town that'll buy you a thin piece of lettuce. Who's going to be next in this international lottery? You, sir, what will it be?

"Ten thousand pesetas on somebody Spanish."

Which one, sir? There's a lot of them.

"They're all the same to me. What's the difference?"

Well, if it's a man you're looking for, you have Alex Corretja, the No. 8 seed. Plays from the baseline, patient. Then there's Carlos Moya, the No. 9, he's patient and plays from the baseline. No. 10 Felix Mantilla, I admit to knowing little about him personally, but I'm told that he believes patience is a virtue and that if he had his way he would play from the baseline.

Now, Alberto Costa, he's seeded 11th, I know for a fact that he likes to

Vantage Point / IAN THOMSEN

play from the baseline and that he's very, very patient. As for Alberto Berasategui, No. 12, let's say that with him the pot is slow to boil but when it does...

"What about the guy who won it a few years ago?"

Sergi Bruguera, the 1993 and 1994 champion, only the second Spanish man to have ever won the French title. He's seeded 16th this year.

"Put my 10,000 pesetas on him."

Next up! Easy, mister, please don't shove the other customers.

"Twenty thousand Deutsche marks on Steffi!"

How much?

"Twenty thousand! Twenty thousand! I want it all on Steffi Graf!"

Twenty thousand, writing it out as fast as I can, twenty thousand on Steffi. Sign here please.

"Wooo-eee! Steffi, Steffi, Steffi! Steffi never loses!"

Yes, madame, how may I help you?

"Five dollars on Pete Sampras."

Five dollars? Is there a recession in America?

"I don't know if he has the mind-set for clay, but I want him to win."

You, sir, with the Union Jack T-shirt.

"One hundred twenty-seven pounds 50 pence on Tim Henman!"

No need to shout, not until he wins Wimbledon, at least. Yes, young man, how much and on whom?

"Andre Agassi. Make it \$50."

I'm sorry, Mr. Agassi isn't entered this year. Anybody else?

"My second-favorite player then. Boris Becker."

Boom-Boom has gone bye-bye. He pulled out last week.

"Michael Stich."

It's a shame he couldn't make it.

"Jennifer Capriati?"

Ankle injury.

"All right, give me Thomas Enqvist of Sweden. I think he's seeded ninth."

That he is... was. He seems to have withdrawn.

"All right, \$7 on Pete Sampras then. You do have him?"

I do for the moment, pending his thigh injury of last week. Who was next? Madame, what seems to be the problem?

"Have you seen my husband? He's been running all over town trying to bet our life savings on Steffi Graf." Really.

"Twenty thousand Deutsche marks."

I've been trying to tell him Steffi's not the same this year, she's had a knee injury, but when my husband has been drinking there's no talking to him.

Courage! Steffi has won five French Open titles and her top rivals are both hurting, too. No. 1 Martina Hingis hasn't played since falling from a horse and having knee surgery last month, and No. 3 Monica Seles still isn't nearly the player she used to be. Your husband might be wiser than all of us.

"I know this is going to be the year some no-name wins it! Twenty-thou-



Albert Costa celebrating his victory Sunday in the World Team Cup.

sand Deutsche marks! Are you sure you haven't seen my husband?

Sorry! Don't remember! Next!

"Are you taking any bets on Tiger Woods?"

To win the French Open tennis tournament? He's a golfer.

"Yes, I know, but he's so great I just thought —"

Next!

"Who are some of the other contenders who, for one reason or another, aren't likely to win this year?"

Yevgeni Kafelnikov, the defending champion from Russia, seeded third this week, has had a disastrous season after breaking a finger hitting a punching bag. He's already said it will take a miracle for him to win.

No. 5 Thomas Muster, the former

champion, seems to be worn out. He's lost six matches on clay this year, more than he lost in 1994 and 1995 combined. Even No. 2 Michael Chang has had a rough time lately, going out in the first round at Atlanta and Rome.

As for No. 1 Sampras, in two weeks he could become the first man since Rod Laver in the 1960s to have won all four Grand Slam events. But he had minor thigh trouble last week and two weeks of five-set matches on the slow clay is murder on him.

Between you and me, a lot of people are backing No. 7 Rios of Chile, or any of the Spaniards, or Goran Ivanisevic, the fourth-seeded Croatian who seems bound to win a Grand Slam title sometime in his career. Maybe you'd like to put your money on Jim Courier, the dark-horse former champion?

"On the women's side — this is the centenary tournament for the women, isn't it?"

It is, and it could create a new era if Hingis and Graf haven't recovered sufficiently to meet each other in the final. Their normal Spanish rivals, No. 6 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and No. 7 Conchita Martinez, are having poor seasons. Perhaps I might interest you in No. 10 Mary Pierce, the naturalized Frenchwoman?

"No, no bets. I'm the sports editor. I just wanted to introduce some facts to this story."

You can't come barging into my column like that.

"All right, then. Give me \$20 on Sampras."

Villeneuve Wins Easily In Spanish Grand Prix

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BARCELONA — Jacques Villeneuve of Canada regained the leadership of the Formula One world drivers' championship Sunday when he claimed a comfortable victory in the Spanish Grand Prix.

Villeneuve, in a Williams car, finished 5.8 seconds ahead of Olivier Panis of France, who had started from 12th position on the grid.

The victory was Villeneuve's third of the year.

It lifted him to the top of the rankings, ahead of Michael Schumacher of Ferrari, who finished fourth Sunday at the Circuit de Catalunya. Jean Alesi of France in a Benetton was third.

Two Britons, Johnny Herbert and David Coulthard, finished fifth and sixth. Herbert stole past Coulthard on the final lap of a closely contested, if rarely thrilling, race.

Villeneuve had failed to finish in the two previous Grand Prix, in San Marino and Monaco.

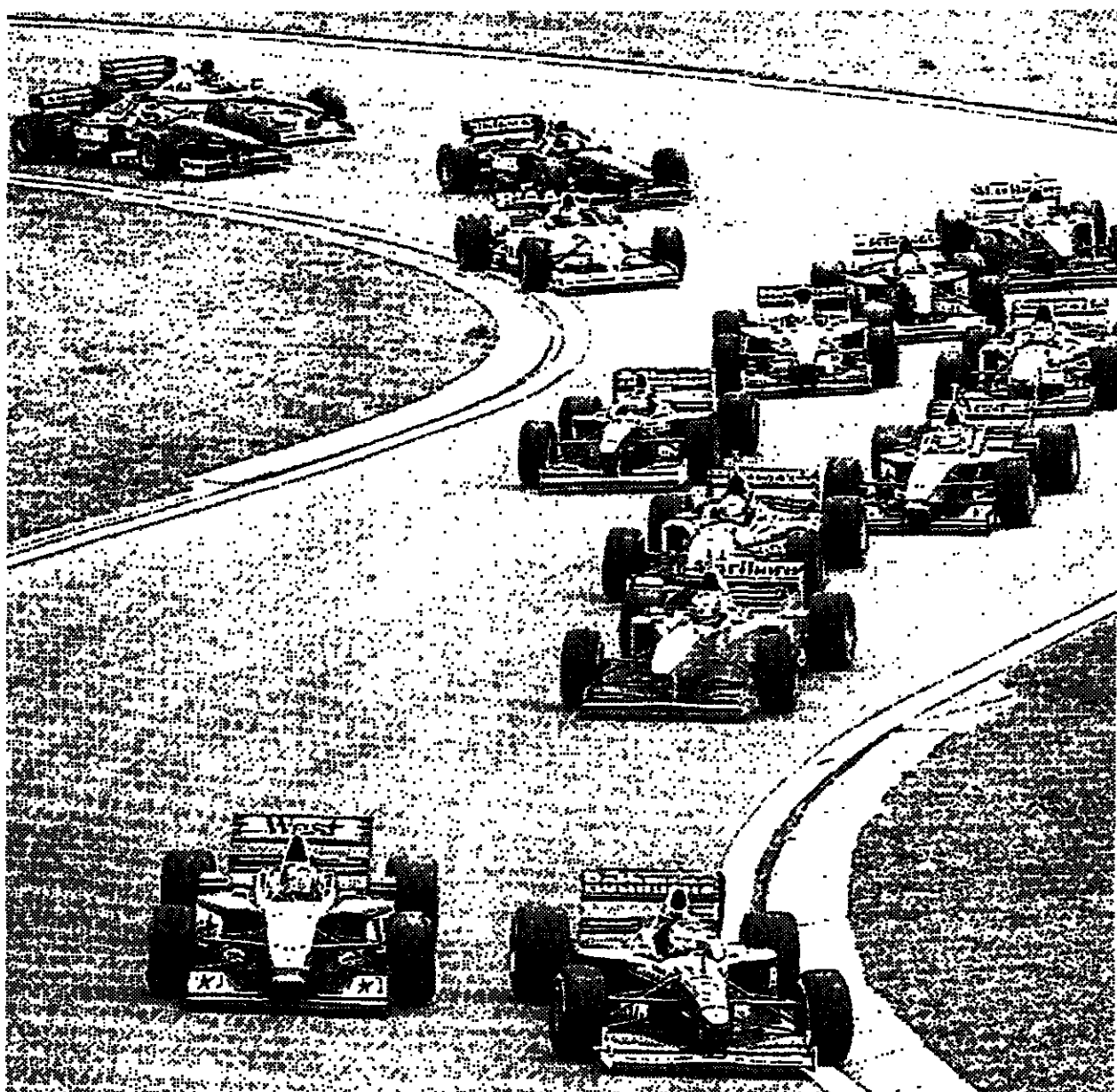
"It was a very pleasing day for me and for the whole team after what happened in Monaco," he said, referring to Williams' disastrous selection of a dry-weather tire at the rainy event in Monte Carlo. "After that stupidity it is good to win again. The car felt very strong and very fast throughout the race."

Villeneuve started from pole position but was beaten to the first corner by Coulthard. Villeneuve recovered before the end of the opening lap and then dominated the race, except for two brief spells following his pit stops.

Schumacher, who began on the fourth row of the grid, also started well. He moved into third by the first turn and was second at the end of the first lap, overtaking Coulthard.

Heinz-Harald Frentzen of Germany finished eighth and failed to score a point for the fifth time in the six races.

His inconsistency is becoming a serious problem for the Williams team, which remains second to Ferrari, and needs Frentzen to gain points if it is to



David Coulthard, left front, jockeying with Jacques Villeneuve for the lead Sunday in the Spanish Grand Prix.

retain the team title.

Schumacher's burst of speed over the opening five laps put him into second position but also blistered his first set of tires. He slowed down and blocked the rest of the field, giving Villeneuve the opportunity to open up a big lead.

Villeneuve was turning laps nearly three seconds better than Schumacher, who was slowing Coulthard, Alesi and Mika Hakkinen behind him.

"I knew that Michael was going to have trouble because in testing we knew he had a hard time to keep his tires more than five laps," Villeneuve said.

Villeneuve led by three seconds after seven laps, and by 19 seconds at the 13th lap during which Coulthard passed Schumacher.

"The first few laps were fun to drive, but then because of tire blisters the car was difficult to control," Schumacher said.

He had to make a pit stop after 12 laps, far ahead of schedule.

Villeneuve lost the lead for only a few seconds when he headed into the pit on the 20th lap but regained it immediately when Alesi went in on the 21st.

On the 46th lap, Villeneuve stopped

for tires and fuel. Schumacher held first as he passed the finish line, but Villeneuve was back in front by the 47th and easily went on to victory.

He built the lead back up to 20 seconds before easing up.

"We had a big gap, I knew there was no point in pushing," Villeneuve said. "It was just important not to drive too fast and make sure we kept the heat in the tires and not overrun them."

Villeneuve finished the 64 laps over the Catalunya Circuit in 1 hour, 30 minutes, 35.896 seconds, averaging 124.3 miles per hour. (Reuters, AP)

Bilbao Beats Real Madrid To Open Up Title Race

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MADRID — Athletic de Bilbao handed Real Madrid only its third defeat of the season Sunday and put Barcelona within striking distance of the league leader with three league games left to play.

Carlos Garcia's 56th-minute goal, from a corner kick that rebounded off several Real defenders, gave Athletic the 1-0 victory and left Real with

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only a two point lead over Barcelona, which beat Deportivo 1-0 on Saturday.

Athletic dominated until the final ten minutes of the match. It created numerous chances while Real only threatened once, when Raul Gonzalez shot wide midway through the first half.

Real pressed furiously in the closing minutes and Roberto Carlos struck the right post with a free kick in the 86th minute. Athletic broke up several other attacks.

Athletic overtook Valladolid and climbed into sixth place in the league.

Deportivo Coruna is in third place one point ahead of Betis which visits Valencia on Monday.

Atletico Madrid, the reigning champion, tied 1-1 at home against lowly Extremadura and remains fifth.

Several national champions were crowned across Europe over the weekend.

• PSV Eindhoven won the Dutch title for the 14th time Sunday when it beat Willem II Tilburg 3-1.

• In Belgium, Lierse clinched the league title with a victory in Liege on Sunday.

• Bayern Munich clinched a record 14th German title Saturday when it beat VfB Stuttgart 4-2 while second-place Bayer Leverkusen lost 4-0 to Cologne.

• Juventus drew 1-1 at Atalanta of Bergamo on Friday to win a record 24th Italian league title. (AP, Reuters)



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